

V. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

This section of the Plan describes the non-housing community development needs and conditions in the community, as well as what currently exists to meet those needs.

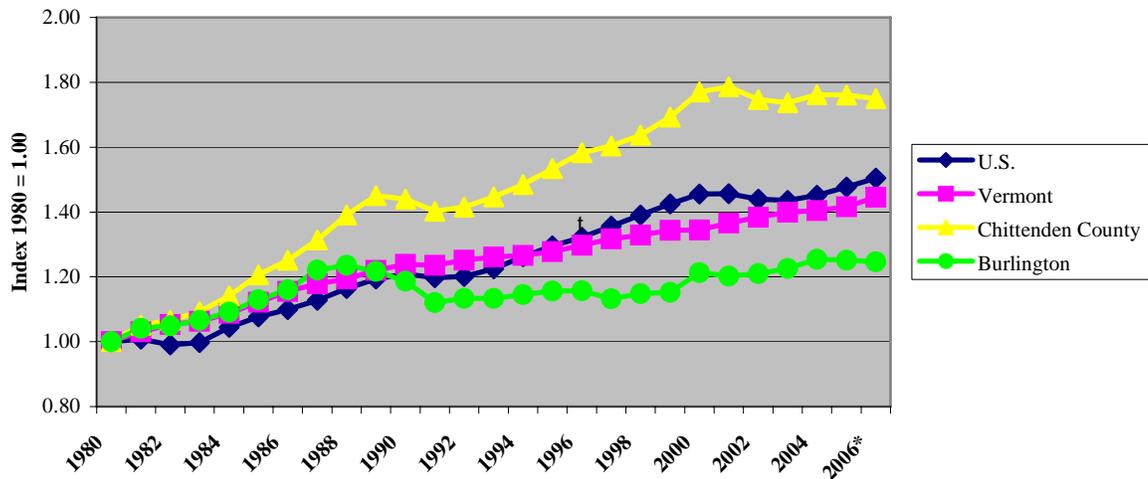
Economic Conditions

This section examines trends in job growth; commuting patterns; the diversity of the local economy, by sector and by company size; leading industry sectors by size and by growth; opportunities for industry sector growth based on whether the city is satisfying its needs locally and/or able to export goods and services; wage and income levels, wage trends, and the ability of available wages to meet basic living needs; and unemployment levels. It also looks at other indicators of economic health such as commercial vacancy rates and revenues from sales and entertainment.

Much of the data and analysis in this section is drawn from Jobs & People IV: Towards a Sustainable Economy, a report prepared by the Seminar on Local Economic Development, Department of Economics, UVM, Spring 2007.

Burlington is the largest job center in Chittenden County, with one-third of the county's total jobs in 2006 according to the Vermont Department of Labor's Covered Employment statistics. From 1980 through 1989, job growth in Burlington (as well as in Chittenden County and in Vermont) outpaced the national job growth rate. After that, while the city continued to see job growth, the rate of growth lagged behind regional, state and national levels.

Trends in Total Employment 1980 to 2006*
Sources: VT Department of Labor, Covered Employment and Wages



*NOTE: 2006 Data for Vermont, Chittenden County and Burlington is an average of quarters 1, 2 and 3 only.

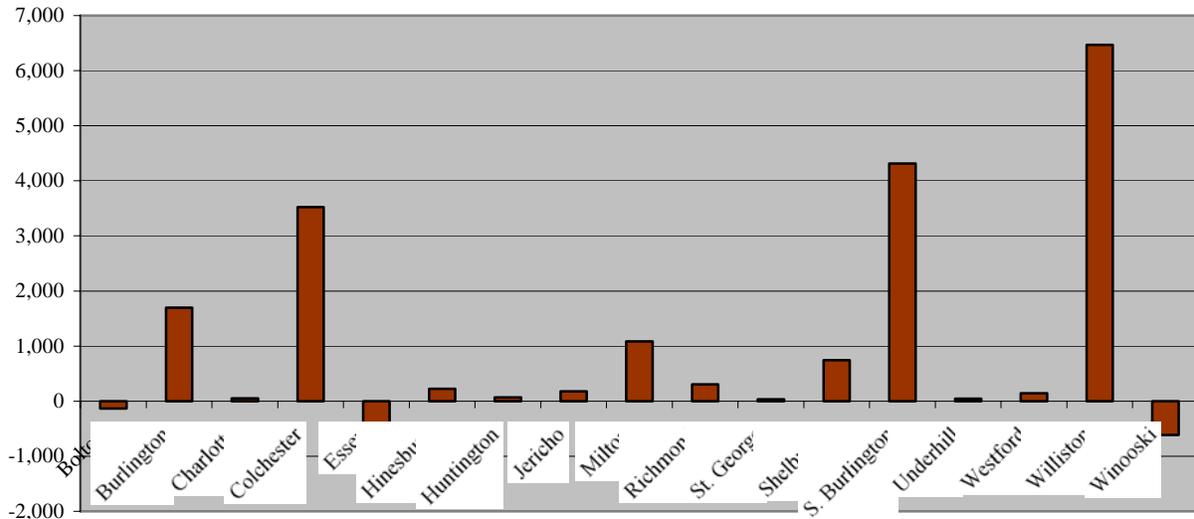
There are several factors which contribute to the slower growth rate in the city. First, job growth – like population growth – is limited by the fact that the city is largely built out, with limited land available for new commercial development. Second, while employment growth normally outpaces population growth, the two are related: slow population growth will limit job growth. (This is true even given population growth in the surrounding region and increased commuting.) Between 1990 and 2003, Burlington’s total employment grew at 3% while its population grew by only 0.1%.

As of the 2000 Census, 11,154 Burlington residents worked in the city, and there were 19,124 people commuting into the city to work. The percent of residents working in the same community where they live was higher in Burlington (52%) than in other Chittenden County communities. At the same time, however, 6% more Burlington residents were commuting out of town to work than in 1990. The greatest growth was in Burlington workers commuting to Colchester, Williston and Essex. There was a 3% growth in workers commuting into the city from 1990 to 2000.

Work Destination of Burlington Workers	Number of Workers	Change from 1990 to 2000
Remain in Burlington	11,154	-745
<i>Work at home</i>	655	18
Colchester town	1,046	350
Essex town	1,524	264
Shelburne town	419	-61
South Burlington city	3,227	94
Williston town	1,293	549
Winooski city	470	-96
Other Counties		
Addison County	131	-43
Franklin County	287	115
Rutland County	20	-90
Washington County	386	83

In raw numbers, the greatest job growth within the county over the last fifteen years has been in the communities of Colchester, South Burlington and Williston. For Colchester and Williston, job growth corresponds with increases in Burlington residents commuting to work in those communities.

Job Growth, 1990 to 2005
Source: Vermont Labor Market Information, Covered Employment



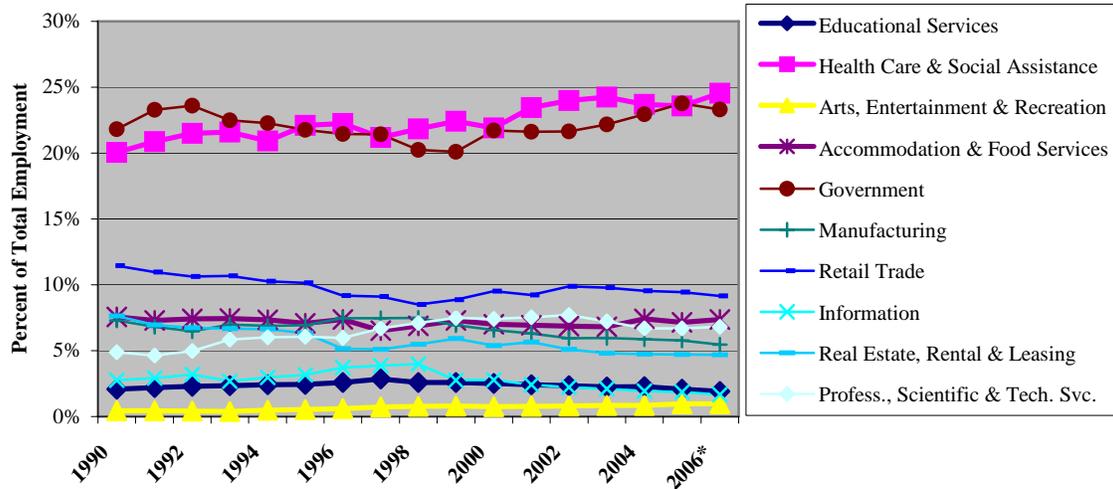
Each of the three communities with the greatest job growth has experienced growth in different sectors, with overlap only in the education and health services and government sectors. (The job numbers in a several sectors are suppressed for confidentiality reasons, so growth there is not public information.)

Job Growth, 1990 – 2006					
Source: Vermont Labor Market Information					
Williston	Growth - Numbers	Growth - Percent	So. Burlington	Growth - Numbers	Growth - Percent
Retail	1,918	427.17%	Education and Health Services	939	169.80%
Transportation and Warehousing	602	248.76%	Government	689	119.83%
Education and Health Services	686	323.58%			
Leisure and Hospitality	549	311.93%	Colchester	Growth - Numbers	Growth - Percent
Other services, except public administration	233	270.93%	Information	234	193.39%
Government	631	299.05%	Financial Activities	339	249.26%
			Professional and Business Services	640	395.06%

Within Burlington, health care, social services and government have traditionally been, and continue to be, the largest job sectors.

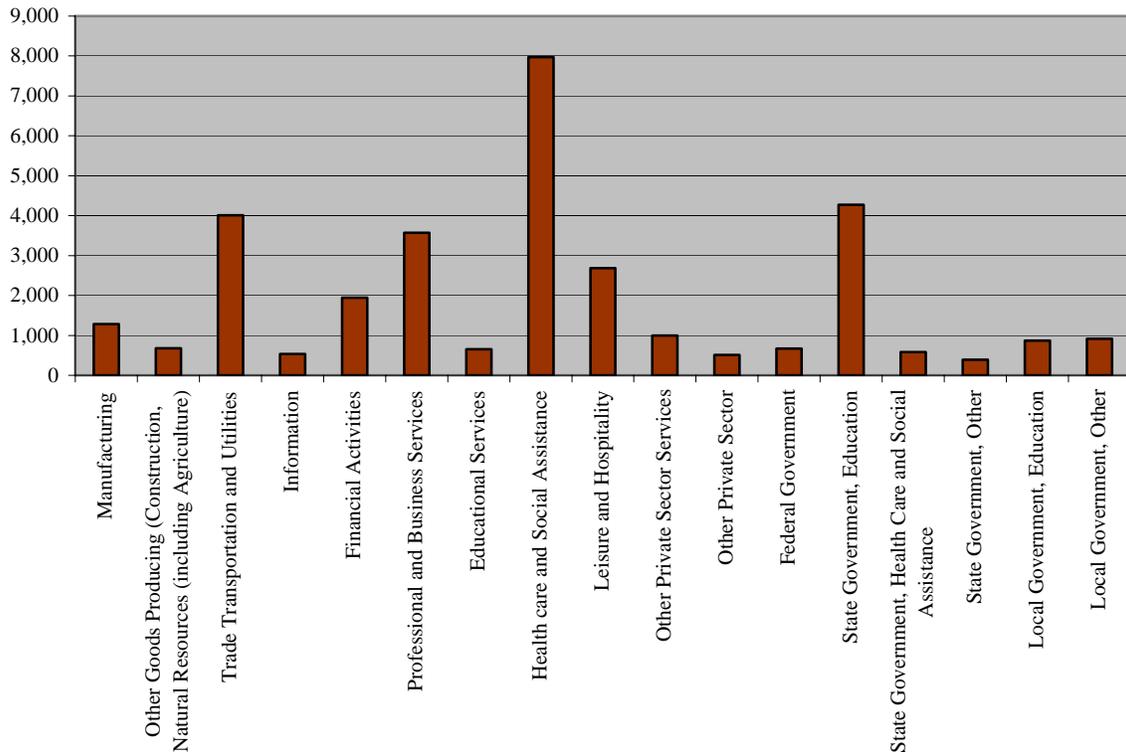
Composition by Sector of Burlington Employment 1990 to 2006

Source: Vermont Labor Market Information



Jobs in Burlington by Industry Sector, 2006

Source: Vermont Labor Market Information

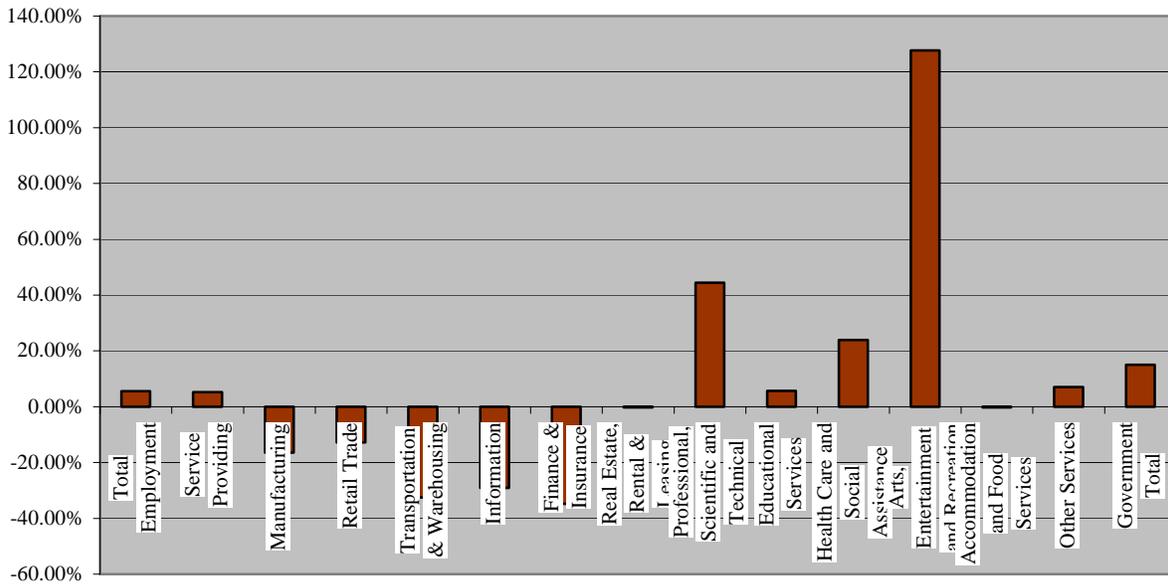


Arts, entertainment and recreation is the leading growth sector in Burlington. While this sector is still a very small component of the economy, it grew by 128% during the period from 1990 to 2006. Other sectors with double-digit growth include professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance, and government. Shrinking sectors are finance and insurance, transportation and warehousing, information, manufacturing and retail.

Change in Employment 1990 - 2006*

Source: Vermont Department of Labor, Current Employment Statistics

*2006 data is first three quarters only.

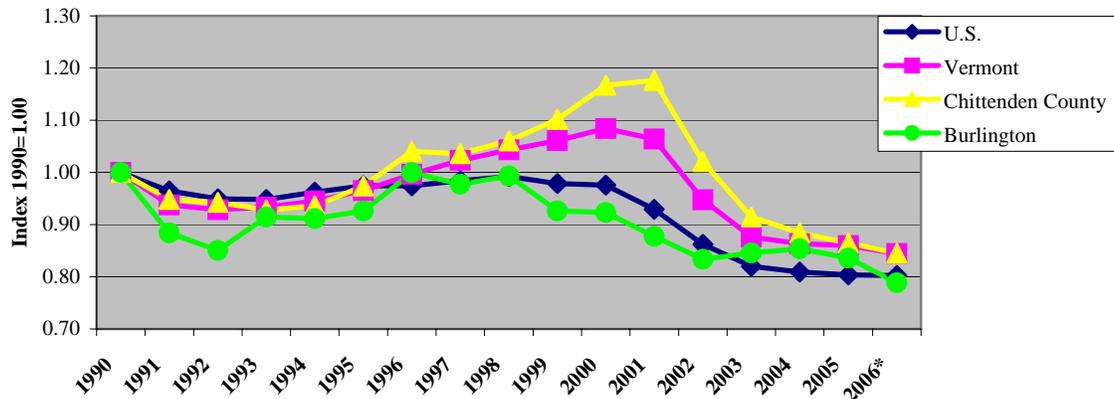


Manufacturing plays a larger role in Chittenden County than in Burlington, with IBM as the largest employer. Declines in manufacturing in the city and the county mirror national trends.

Trends in Manufacturing 1990 to 2006

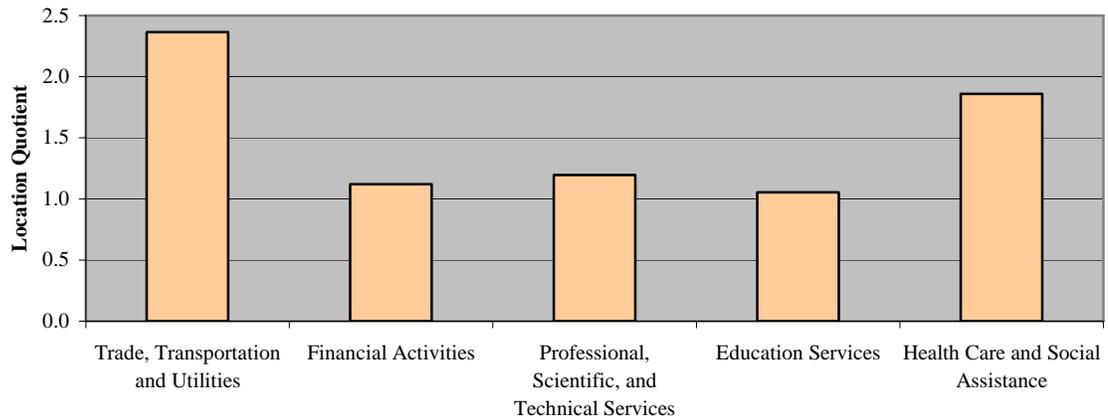
Source: Vermont and U.S. Departments of Labor

2006 data for Vermont, Chittenden County and Burlington are for first three quarters only



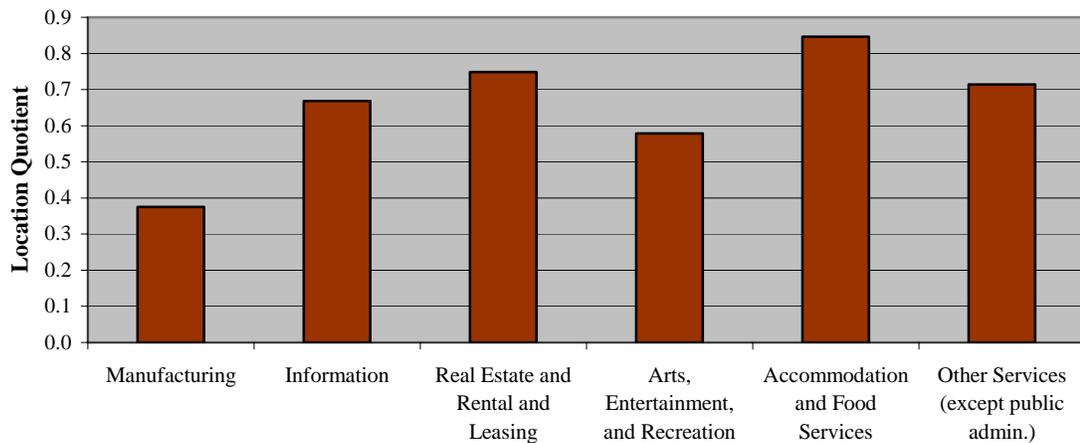
Location quotients are a measure of the extent to which an urban area specializes in a particular industry. A location quotient is the percentage of total employment in an urban area in a particular industry divided by the corresponding percentage for the nation as a whole. A location quotient great than 1 indicates that the city is probably producing the good or service for export outside its own area, and is thus importing money into the local economy. These are focus sectors for additional growth.

LQ's > 1, Burlington Exports
 Source: Vermont Department of Labor, 2004 Covered Wages and Employment



A location quotient less than 1 indicates that the city is probably importing the good or service, and that there may be an opportunity for new business start-ups in that sector. Of particular interest here is the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector, where the city is not meeting local demand despite triple-digit growth in jobs over the last sixteen years.

LQ's < 1, Burlington Imports
 Source: Vermont Department of Labor, 2004 Covered Wages and Employment



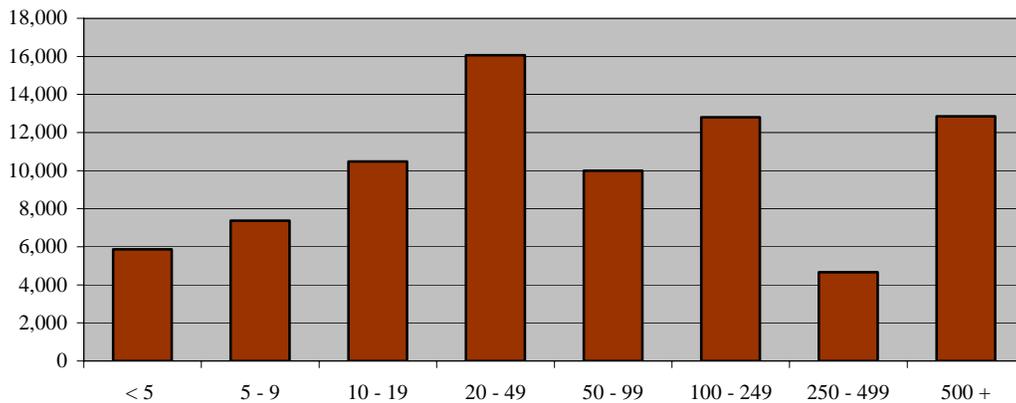
In Burlington, the numbers and percentages of the self-employed continue to rise:

Self-Employed Source: Census	1980	1990	2000
# of self-employed	928	1,396	1,661
% self-employed	5.3%	6.7%	7.8%
% increase		1.4%	2.5%

Small business is a critical part of the local economy. Half the jobs in Chittenden County are provided by companies which employ less than 50 people.

Chittenden County, Jobs by Company Size, 2005

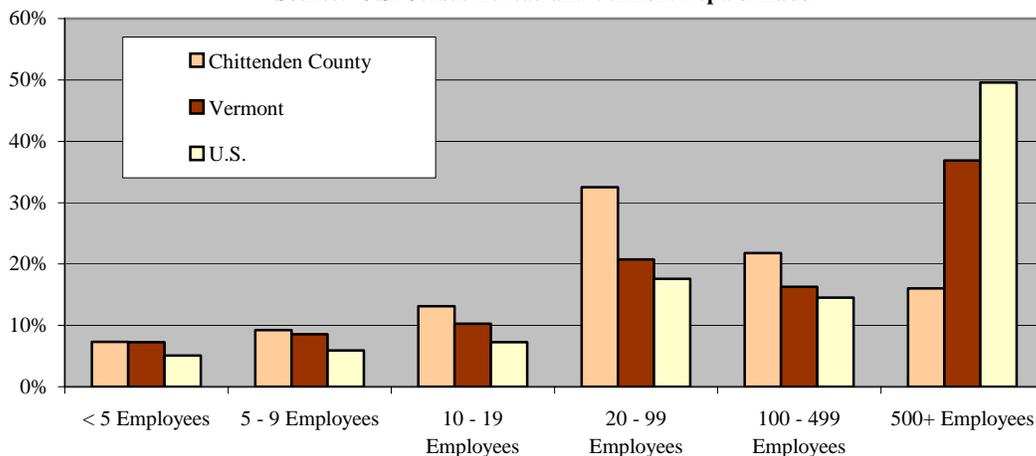
Source: Vermont Dept. of Labor, Covered Wages and Employment, Size Class by County, Private Ownership



The local and state economies depend less on very large employers than does the country as a whole:

Percent of Jobs by Company Size

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Vermont Dept. of Labor

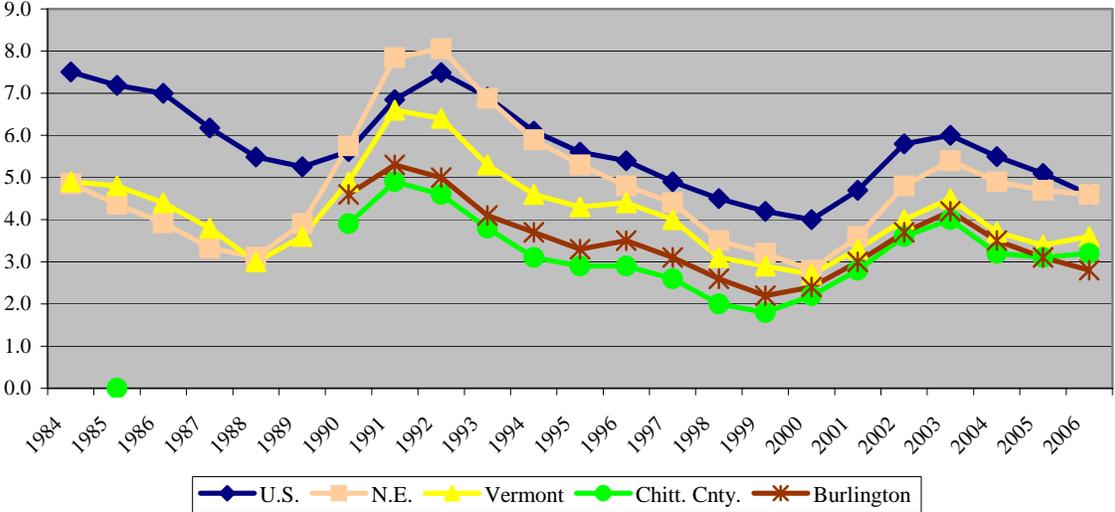


IBM continues to be the largest employer both regionally and in the state. In Burlington, Fletcher Allen Health Care and the University of Vermont are by far the largest employers. Both are nonprofit institutions which own large amounts of land, affecting the distribution of taxes and funding of public services in the city – but also providing resiliency to the local economy.

Large Employers			
Sources: Vermont Business Magazine--Vermont at a Glance: 2007-2008 Vermont Department of Education, 2006 Teacher/Staff FTE and Salary Report Phone Calls to Employers			
<u>Within the city:</u>		<u>Within surrounding municipalities:</u>	
Company Name	2006 Staff	Company Name	2006 Staff
Fletcher Allen Hospital	4,086	IBM	5,700
University of Vermont	3,137	G.E. Healthcare	850
Burlington City Schools	774	Adecco	764
City of Burlington	630	Ben & Jerry's	735
Westaff	562	St. Michael's College	472
General Dynamics	500	South Burlington Schools	449
S.D. Ireland	355	Colchester Schools	402
Gardeners Supply	250	VSAC	375
Burlington Free Press	250	Lane Press, Inc.	306
Champlain College	230	Husky Injection Molding Systems	300
Blodgett Oven Co.	170	Adelphia	300
City Market	150	All Scripts	300
Rhino Foods	130	Vermont Teddy Bear	285
Dealer.Com	130	UPS	267
Edlund	112	Engelberth Construction	235
Hilton Hotel	110	Heritage Automotive	228
<u>Within the city and surrounding region:</u>			
Company Name	2006 Staff	Company Name	2006 Staff
U.S. Government	2,650	Essex Junction Schools	226
Chittenden Bank	1,202	Control Technology	200
Howard Center	750	S.T. Griswold	215
Napoli Group	680	Twincraft, Inc.	215
Verizon	650	Resolution, Inc.	210
T.D. Banknorth Group, Inc.	550	Green Mountain Power	196
Visiting Nurse Association	422	Bio-Tek Instruments	190
Sodexo	350	Citizens Bank	182
Reel Hospitality	332	Champlain Cable	130
Merchants Bank	300	Key Bank of Vermont	128
Burton Snowboards	272	Lake Champlain Chocolates	125
Pizzagalli Construction	150	Sheraton Hotel	110

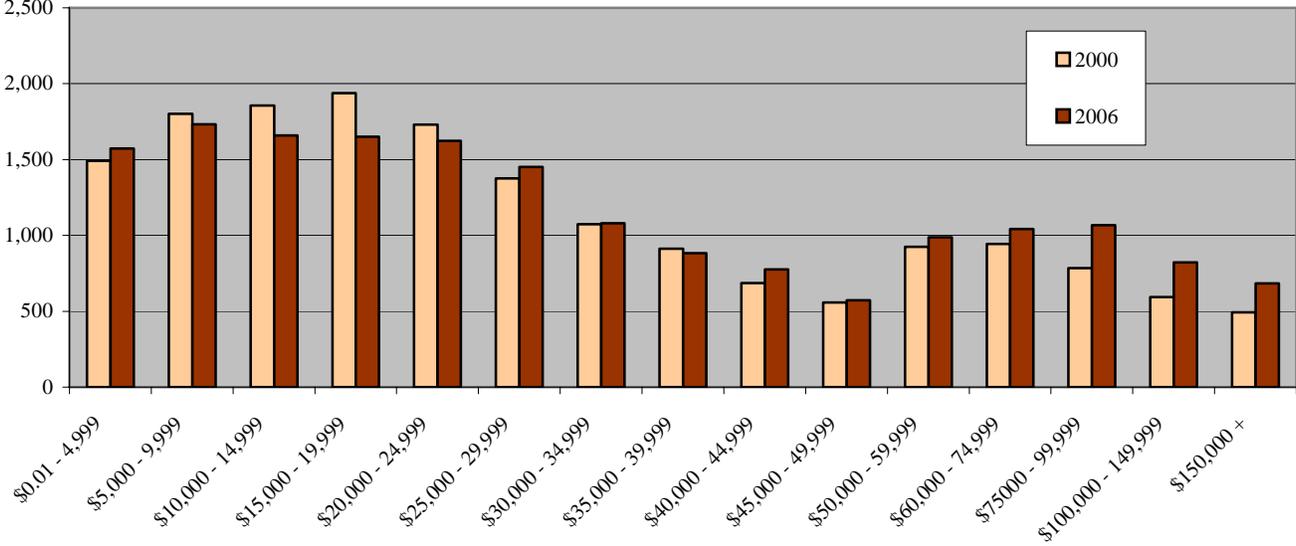
The unemployment rate in Burlington consistently runs below national and state rates. The local economy is anchored by employment at the University of Vermont and Fletcher Allen Health Care, which are less affected by economic downturns. Beyond those two employers, the local economy is relatively diversified, making it more resilient and able to absorb changes in economic activity.

Annual Average Unemployment Rate
 U.S., New England, Chittenden County, Vermont, Burlington, 1984-2006
 Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



The chart below compares income distribution for taxpayers by adjusted gross income in 2000 and 2006. It shows that the largest income gains over the last six years appear in the higher income brackets – i.e., the largest increases in numbers of taxpayers are in the three highest income levels.

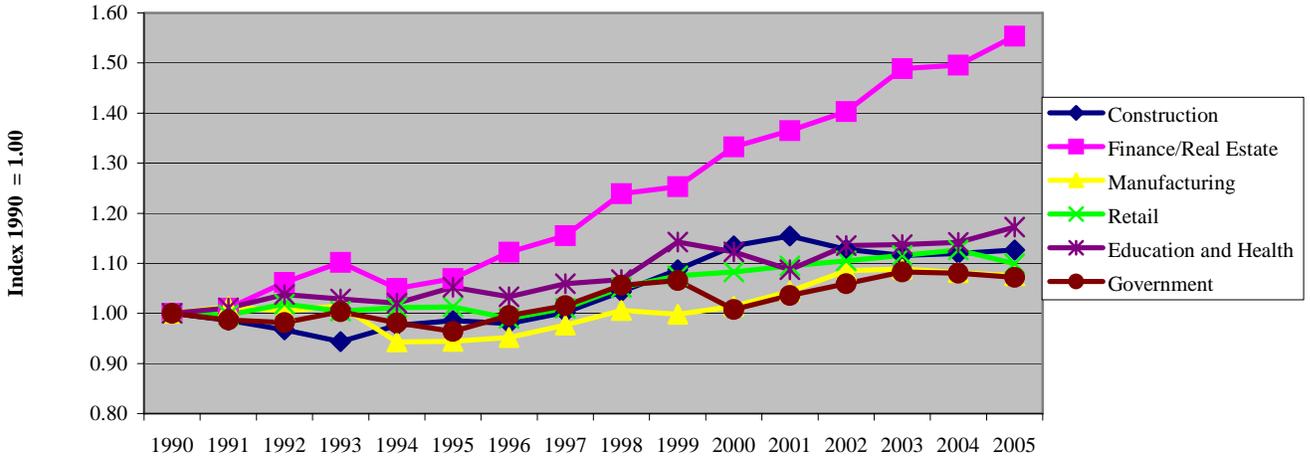
of Burlington Tax Returns by Adjusted Gross Income Class
 Source: Vermont Tax Department



Wages were stagnant in many industries in the early 1990's, and have remained relatively flat in certain sectors over the last fifteen years.

Indexed Average Real Wage Growth by Sector, Chittenden County 1990 to 2005

Source: Vermont Dept. of Labor, Covered Employment and Wages

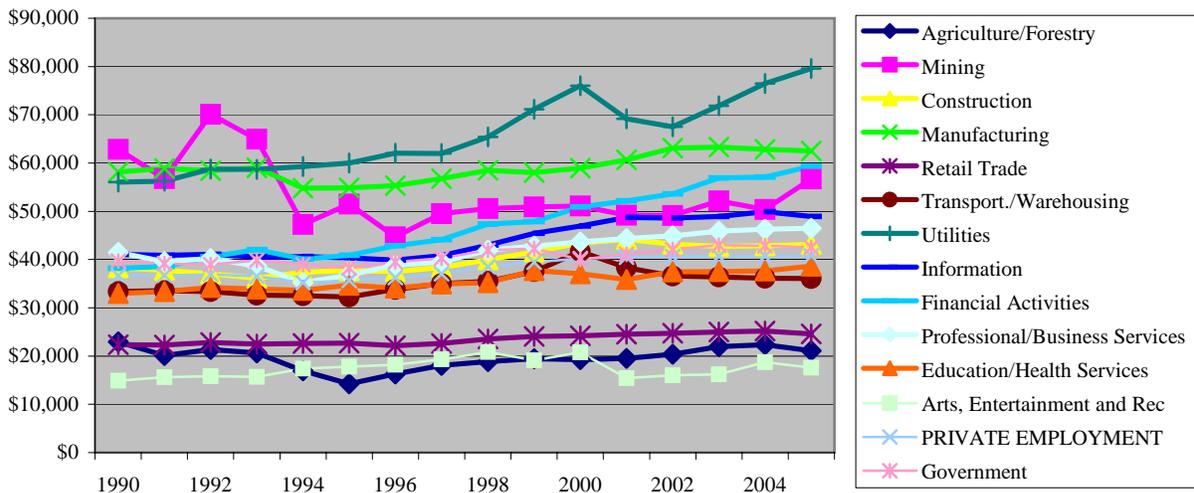


Real wages are lowest in the arts, entertainment and recreation and agriculture/forestry sectors. This is important because Burlington and the region are interested in expanding the role of the arts and sustainable agriculture in the local economy. On the other hand, information and professional/business services have above average wages and are also sectors that Burlington is interested in targeting as components of its growing creative economy.

Real Average Wage*, Chittenden County

Source: Vermont Dept. of Labor, Covered Employment and Wages

*Income in real 2006 dollars



The gap between what entry-level jobs pay and what it costs to live independently in the city continues to grow. The Joint Fiscal Office of the Vermont Legislature calculates the wages necessary to cover food, housing, childcare, transportation, health care, clothing, household and personal expenses and insurance plus federal and state taxes, for various household types. The Vermont livable wage is almost three times the federal poverty level and the full-time minimum wage earnings. A single parent with one child needs to earn at least \$21.57 an hour if the employer provides health benefits and \$24.60 if the employer doesn't. The table below shows the monthly basic needs budget in 2007 for a single parent with one child in Burlington:

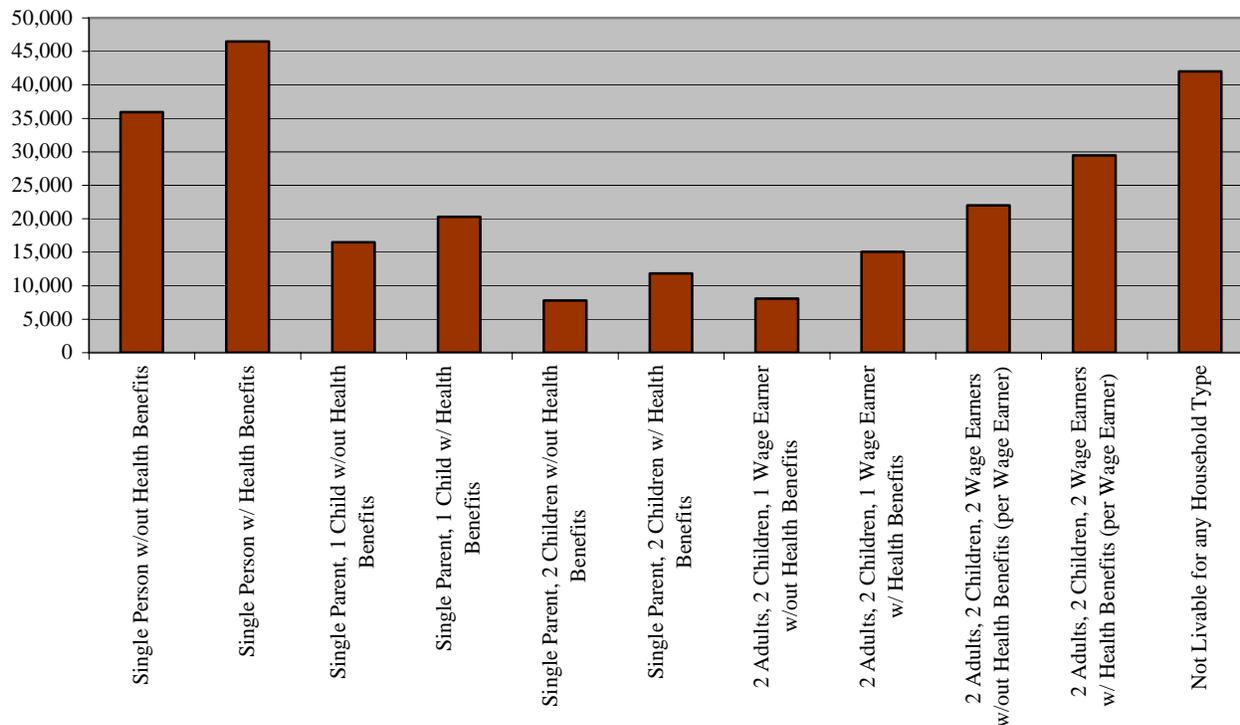
Monthly Basic Needs Budget Expense - Urban	With Employer Assisted Health Care	No Employer Assisted Health Care
Food (moderate cost plan)	\$ 404	\$ 404
Housing (rent & utilities)	983	983
Transportation	309	309
Child Care	581	581
Clothing / Household	239	239
Telephone	37	37
Personal Expenses	138	138
Rental Insurance	12	12
Health Care	203	571
Dental Care	86	86
Term Life Insurance	25	25
Savings (5%)	151	169
Total Monthly Expenses	3,167	3,554
Annual Expenses	38,004	42,648
Federal & State Taxes	6,865	8,518
HOURLY "LIVABLE" WAGE	\$ 21.57	\$ 24.60
ANNUAL INCOME	\$ 44,869	\$ 51,166

In contrast, poverty level annual income for that single parent, as measured by the Census in 2006, was \$13,896. Poverty levels continue to be defined on the basis of food costs. In the 1930's, when that definition was adopted, food costs were the most significant household expense. As the chart above illustrates, that is no longer true, and food costs are no longer an appropriate basis on which to determine need levels.

The chart on the next page gives a rough measure of how many of the 112,130 jobs in the local Metropolitan Statistical Area (which includes all of Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties) met the livable wage needs of various household types in 2006.

Livable Wage Jobs, Burlington/So. Burlington MSA

Source: May 2006 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, Released July 2007, and 2007 Basic Needs Budget



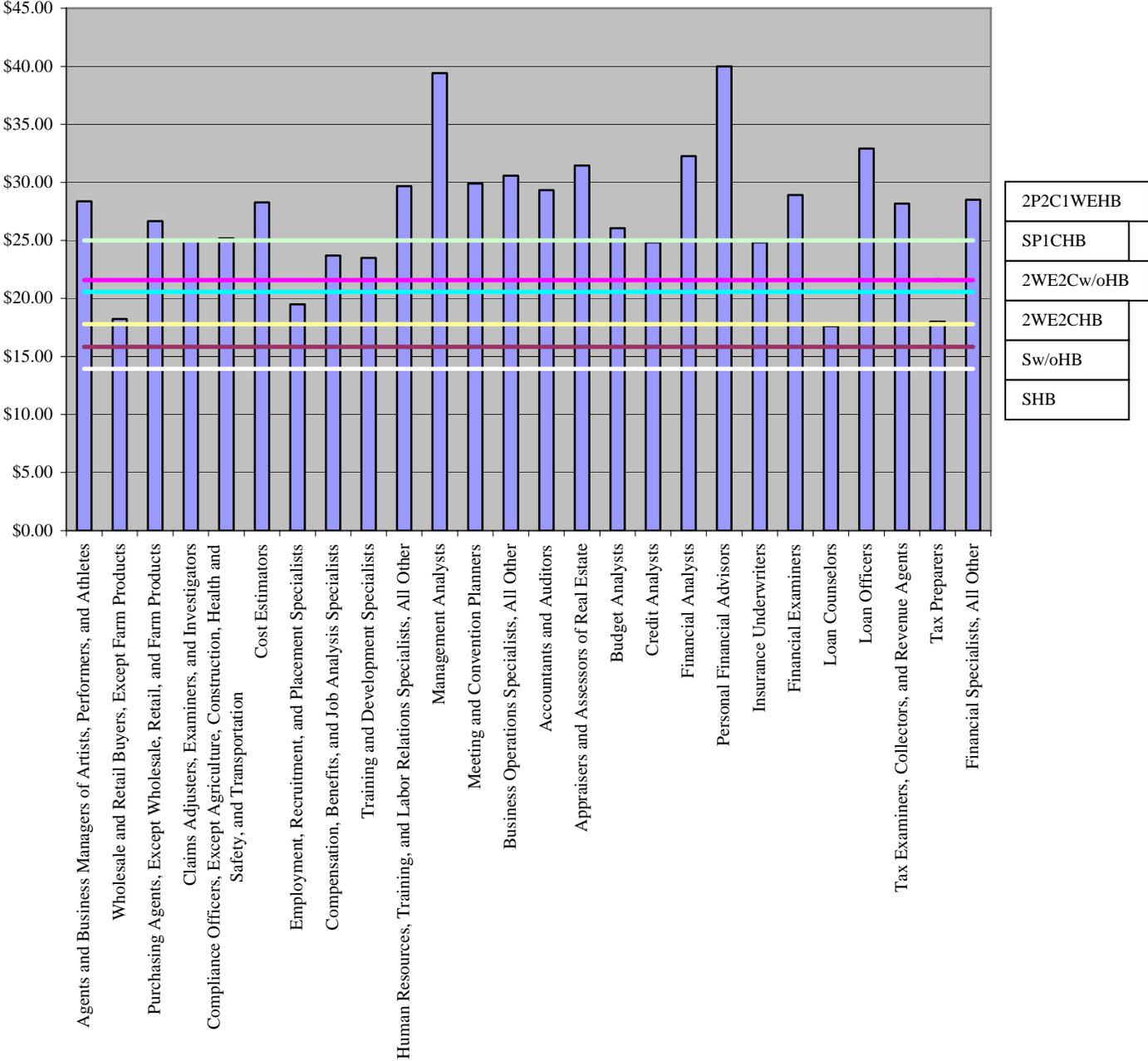
The charts on the following pages compare the average hourly wages in major job categories, as found by the Occupational Employment Statistics survey of wages in the Burlington – South Burlington Metropolitan Statistical Area in May 2006, with the livable wage for six household compositions according to the Basic Needs Budget released by the Joint Fiscal Office in 2007 (using 2006 data). The six household types that appear on the charts are, descending order:

- 2P2C1WEHB: 2 Parents with 2 children, 1 Wage Earner, with Health Benefits
- SP1CHB: Single Parent with 1 Child with Health Benefits
- 2WE2Cw/oHB: 2 Wage Earners with 2 Children without Health Benefits (per wage earner)
- 2WE2CHB: 2 Wage Earners with 2 Children with Health Benefits (per wage earner)
- Sw/oHB: Single Person without Health Benefits
- SHB: Single Person with Health Benefits

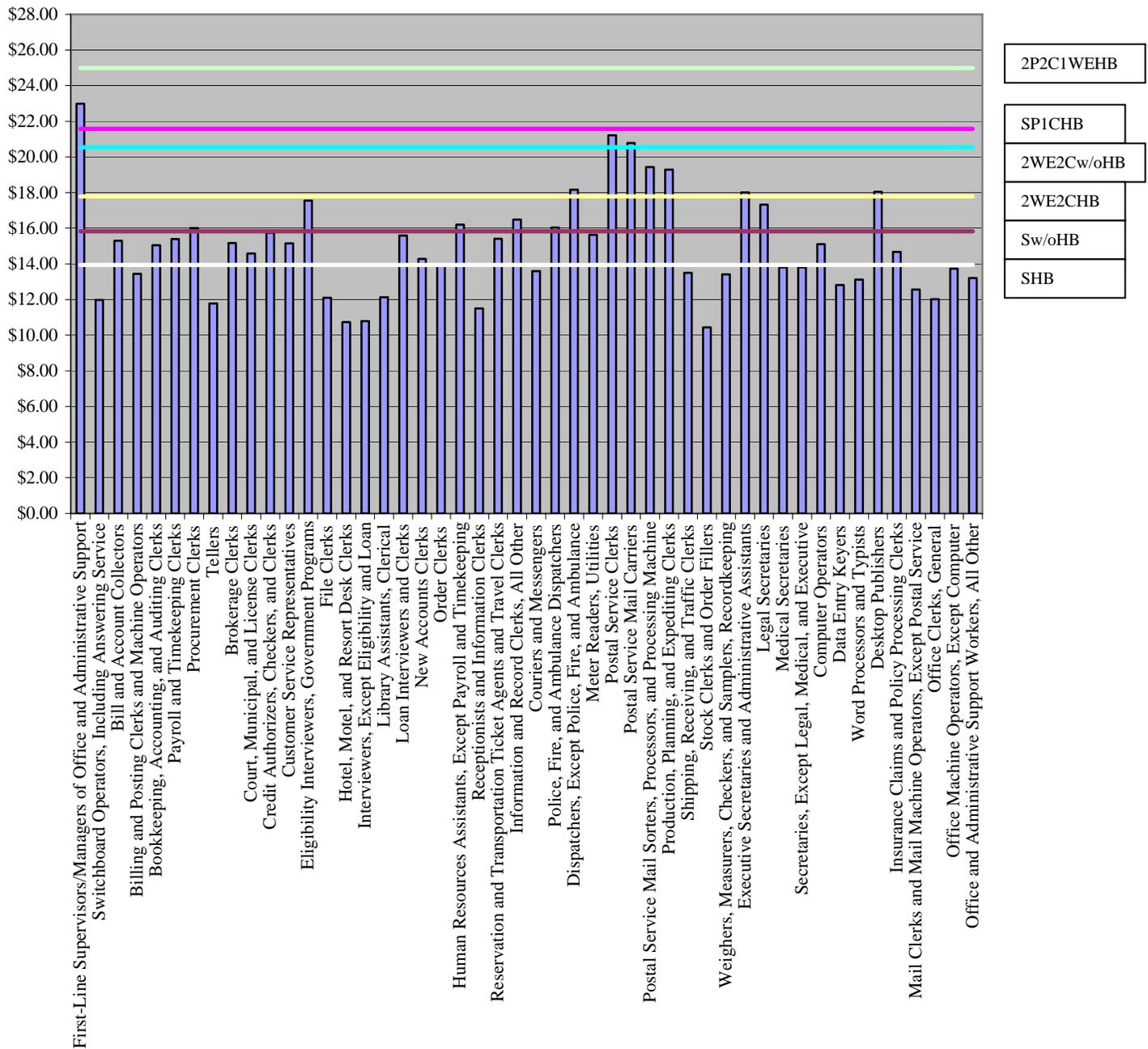
The jobs that allow a family with one wage earner to be self-sufficient are principally in the areas of business and financial operations; management; legal, architecture and engineering services; computer, mathematics, life, physical and social sciences; and in some occupations in the health and sales fields. All are jobs that require high levels of

skills and education. For most jobs, a family would need at least two wage earners (or more than two full-time jobs) in order to meet basic living expenses.

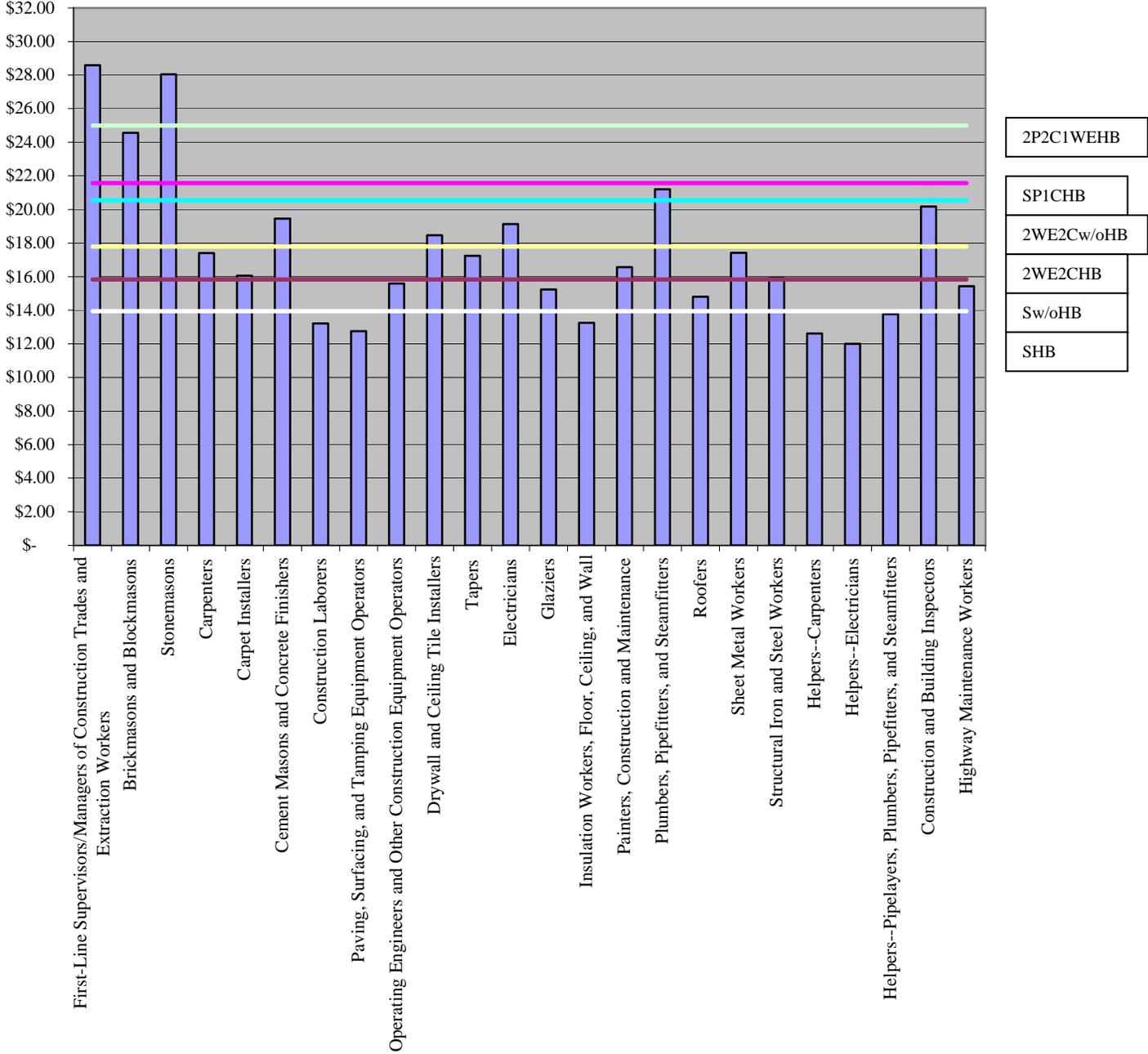
Business and Financial Operation Jobs



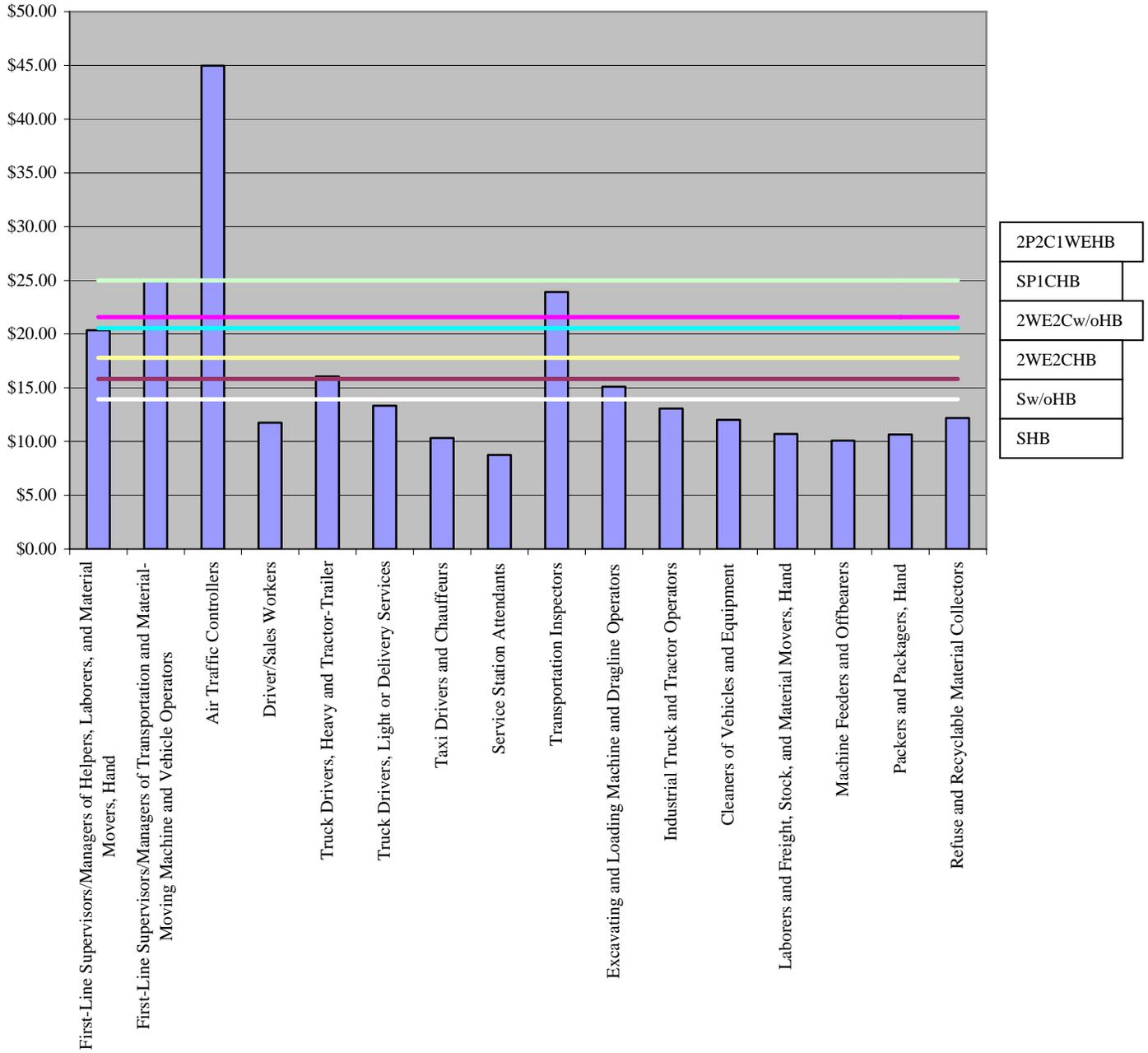
Office and Admin Support Jobs



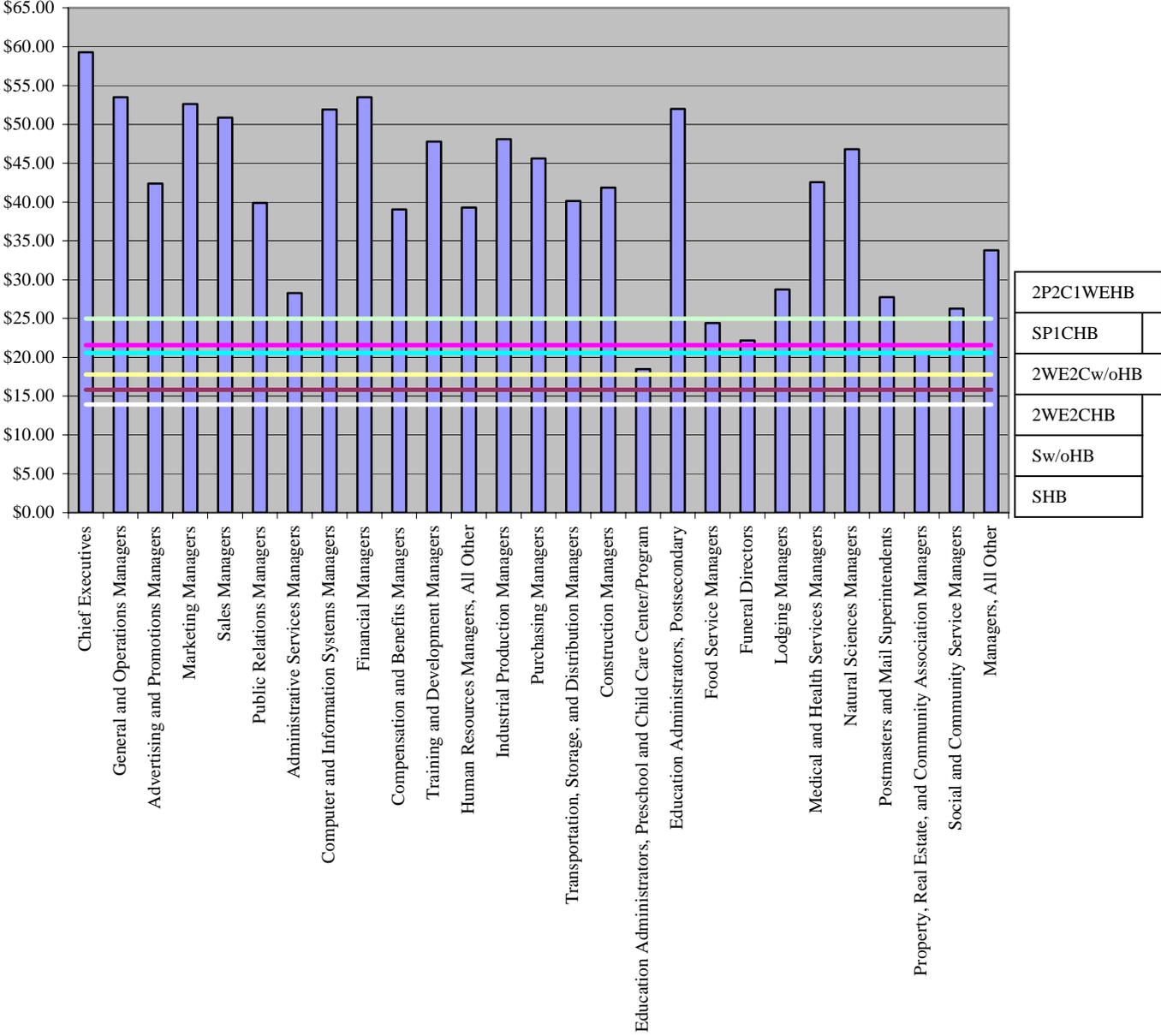
Construction Jobs



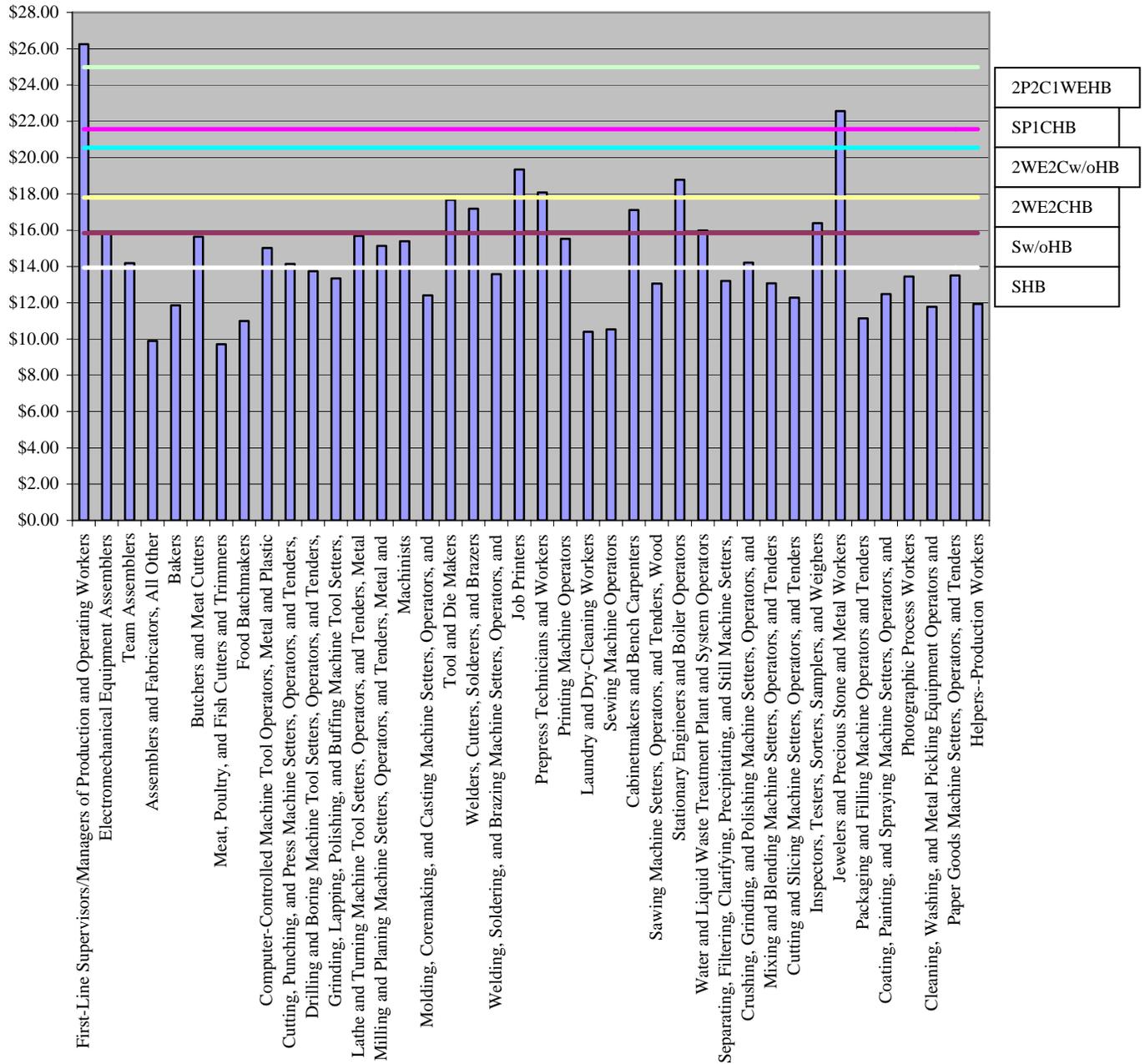
Transportation Jobs



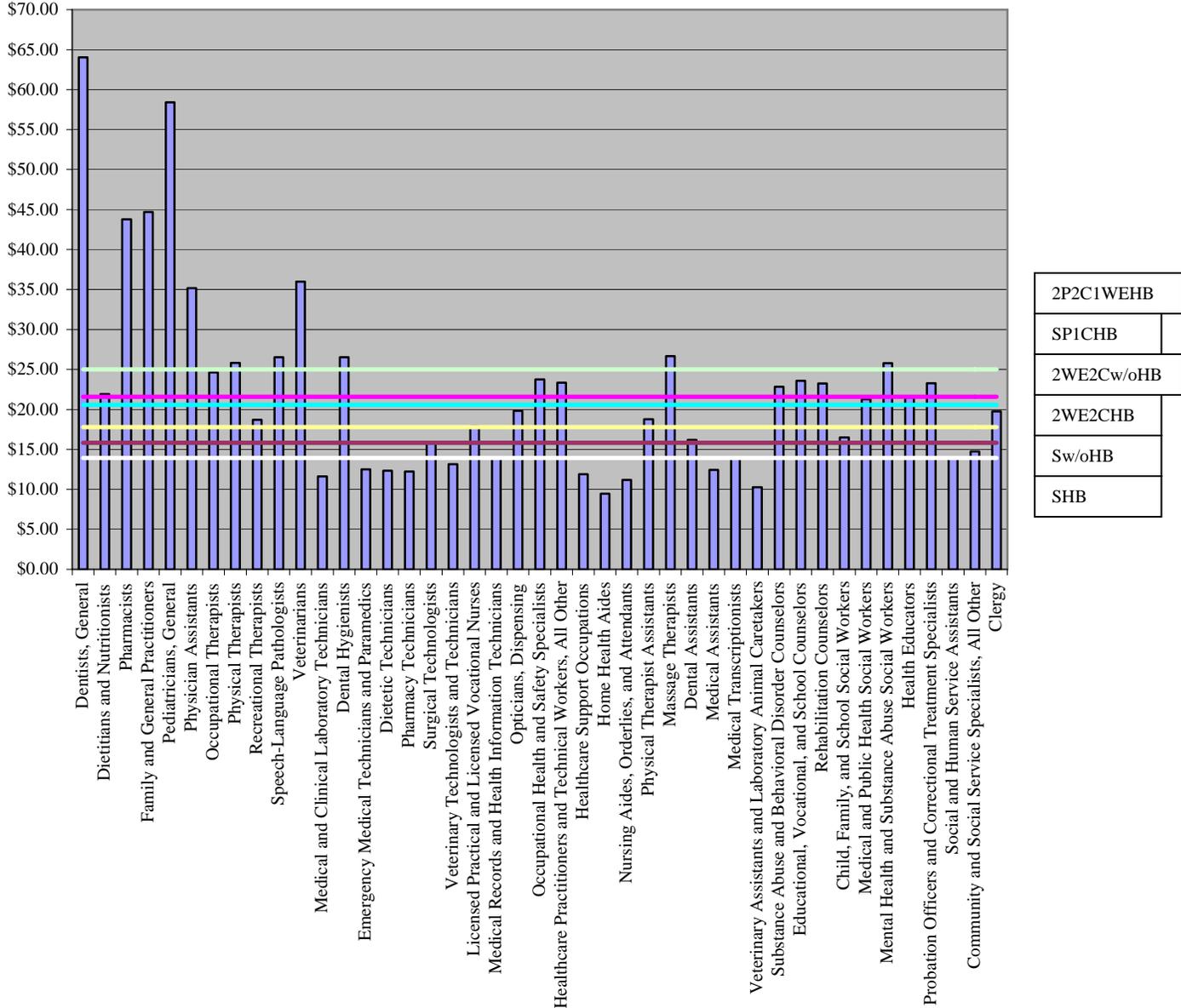
Management Jobs



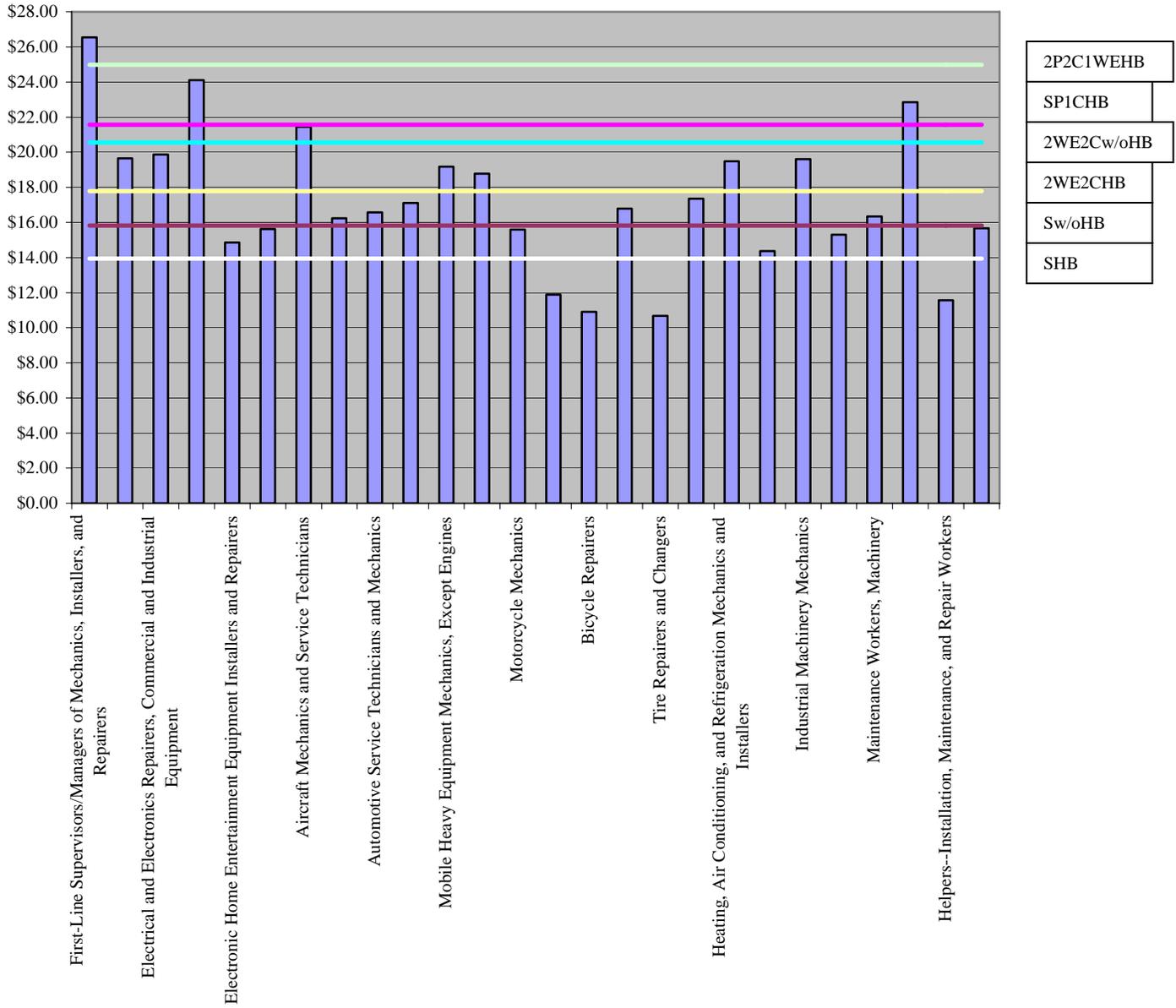
Production Jobs



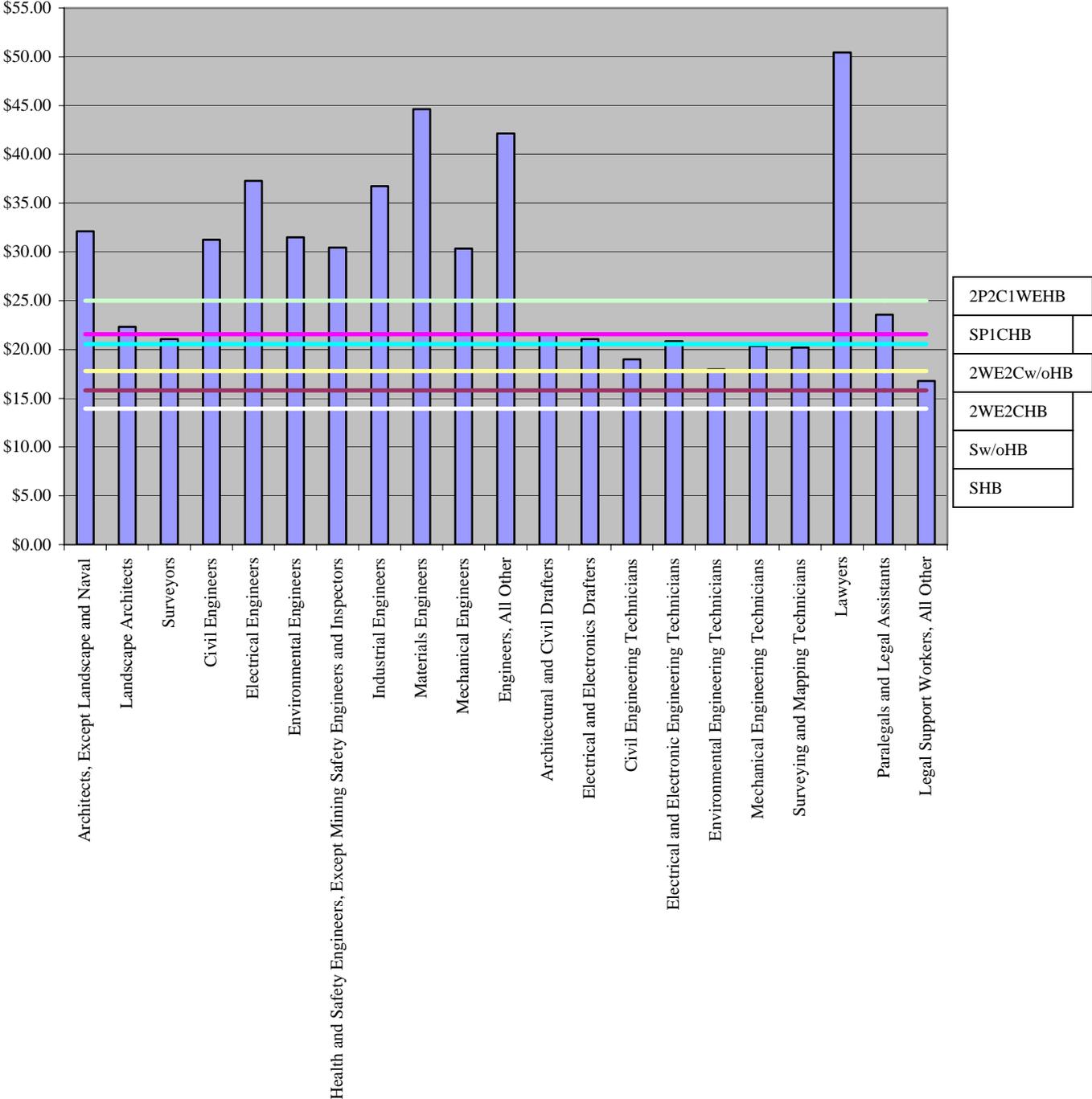
Healthcare and Community and Social Services Jobs



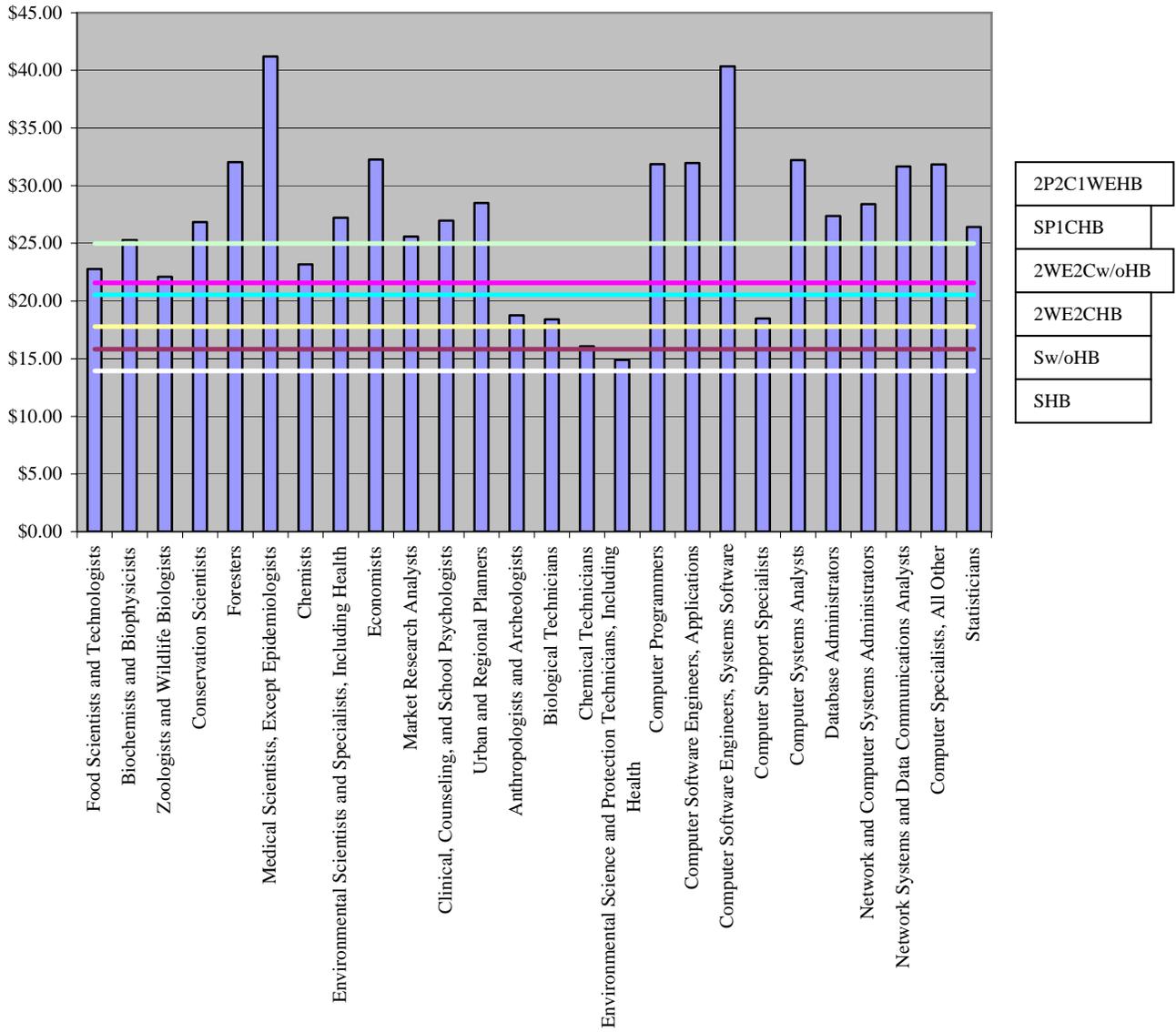
Installation, Maintenance and Repair Jobs



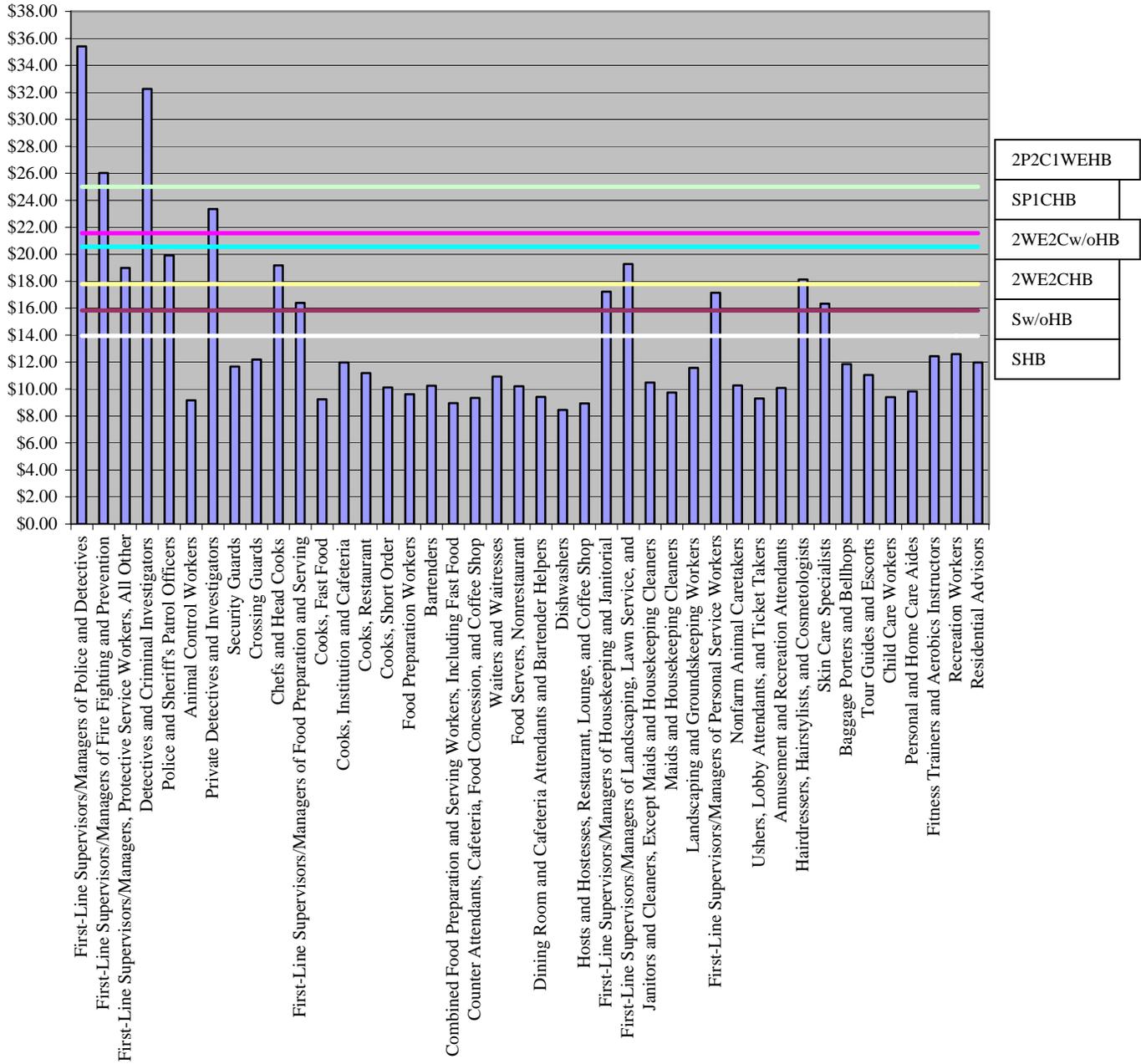
Legal, Architecture and Engineering Jobs



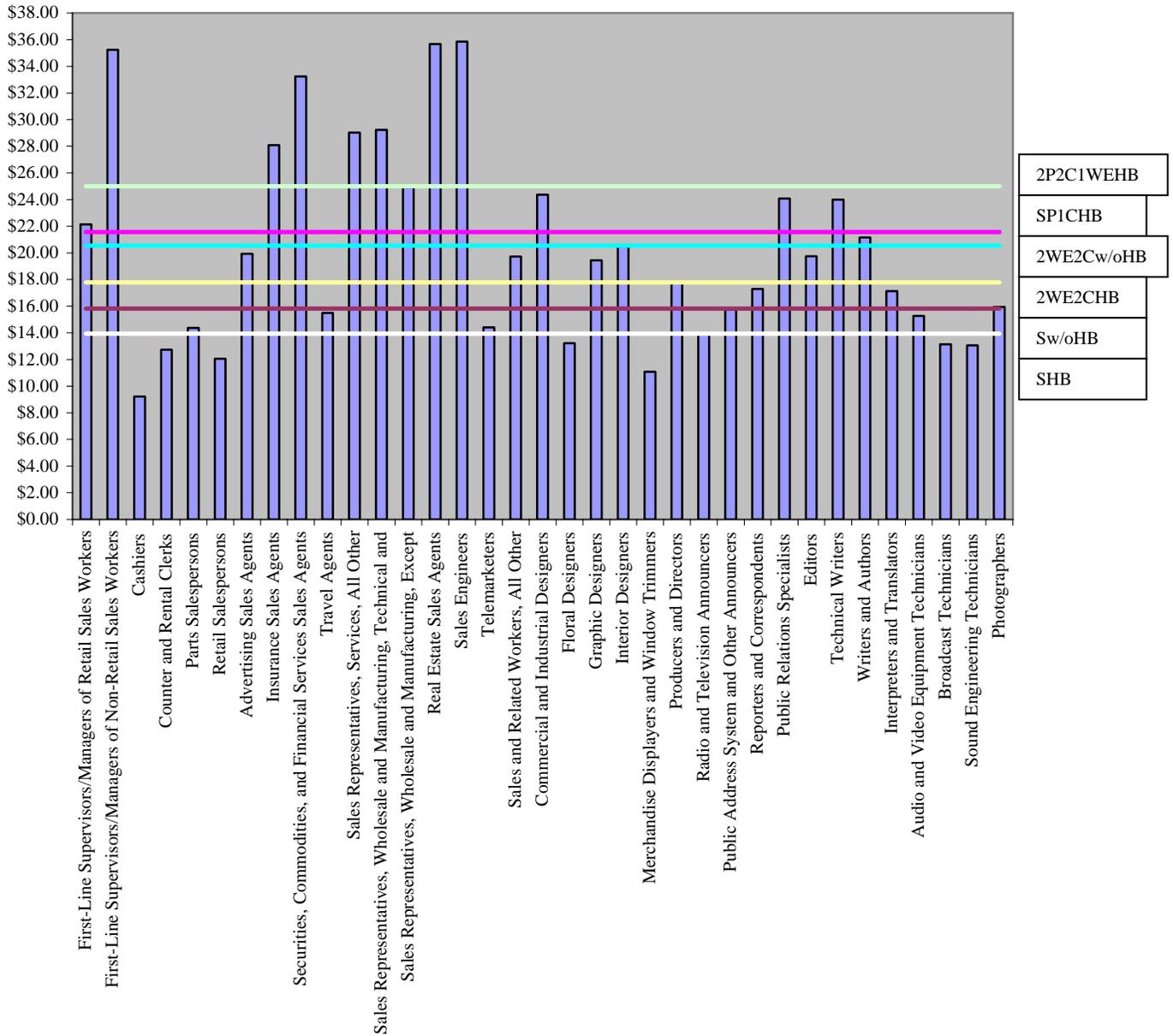
Computer, Mathematical, Life, Physical and Social Science Jobs



Protective Services, Personal Care and Service, Food Preparation and Serving, and Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Jobs



Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, Media, Sales and Related Jobs



In addition to job growth and unemployment rates, commercial and industrial vacancy rates and revenues from sales and entertainment are also indicators of the overall health of the local economy.

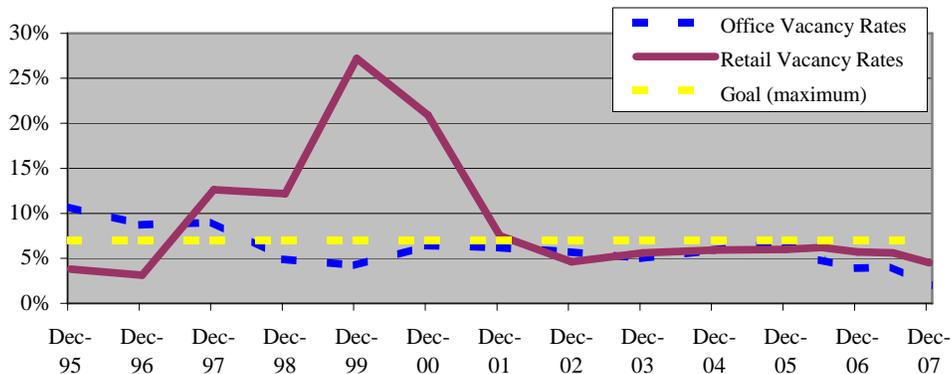
The industrial vacancy rate in Burlington in December 2007 was 2.7%, as compared to a countywide industrial vacancy rate of 6.1%.

Industrial Space				
Source: Allen & Brooks Report, December 2007©				
	Square Feet	% of Total Square Feet	Vacancy Rates	
			June 2007	December 2007
Total	12,297,000		6.2%	6.1%
Williston	3,683,000	29.95%	8.3%	8.0%
South Burlington	1,965,000	15.98%	2.7%	3.1%
Colchester	1,574,000	12.80%	4.2%	5.2%
Burlington	1,529,000	12.43%	2.9%	2.7%
Essex	1,521,000	12.37%	15.7%	10.8%
Milton	704,000	5.72%	1.3%	1.3%
Winooski	520,000	4.23%	6.3%	18.4%
Shelburne / Charlotte	486,000	3.95%	0.0%	1.5%
Hinesburg	315,000	2.56%	1.0%	1.0%

With the completion of renovations to the downtown mall space in the Burlington Town Center, the downtown retail vacancy rate rebounded. As of December 2007, the downtown retail vacancy rate was 4.6% and the downtown office vacancy rate was 2.0%. Those compare to a suburban retail vacancy rate of 4.8% and a suburban office vacancy rate of 9.2%.

Burlington's Central Business District

Source: Allen & Brooks Report©



Source: Allen & Brooks Report, December 2007 [®]	Retail Space			Office Space		
	Square Feet	% of Total Square Feet	Vacancy Rate	Square Feet	% of Total Square Feet	Vacancy Rate
Total	4,649,000		4.8%	6,463,000		7.4%
Burlington CBD*	599,000	12.88%	4.6%	1,558,000	24.11%	2.0%
Burlington Outside CBD	267,000	5.74%	10.4%	561,000	8.68%	3.0%
Colchester	335,000	7.21%	8.2%	805,000	12.46%	12.5%
Essex	640,000	13.77%	2.7%	275,000	4.25%	15.1%
Milton	79,000	1.70%	0.0%			
Shelburne	78,000	1.68%	0.0%	94,000	1.45%	15.4%
South Burlington	1,567,000	33.71%	4.2%	1,841,000	28.49%	4.8%
Williston	1,054,000	22.67%	3.8%	1,078,000	16.68%	14.5%
Winooski	30,000	0.65%	50.0%	251,000	3.88%	12.8%

*Central Business District

The chart below shows merchant revenues from sales and entertainment activities in Burlington, as reported by the Vermont Department of Taxes. Gross receipts numbers are not verified, and may contain some inaccuracies. However, the chart shows gross receipts rather than taxable retail receipts because a change in state policy making clothing purchases under \$110 exempt from sales tax means that taxable sales don't accurately measure the strength of retailing, especially in the city.

Updated Sales and Entertainment Revenues in Burlington						
Source: Vermont Tax Department						
Year	Gross receipts revenues			Rooms, meals & alcohol tax revenues		
2006	\$1,127,978,793	% Growth 05-06	3.17%	\$99,691,816	% Growth 05-06	3.85%
2005	\$1,093,324,985	% Growth 04-05	(2.82%)	\$95,999,196	% Growth 04-05	1.00%
2004	\$1,125,064,139	% Growth 03-04	24.92%	\$95,251,461	% Growth 03-04	5.05%
2003	\$900,661,429	% Growth 02-03	2.93%	\$90,670,136	% Growth 02-03	1.55%
2002	\$874,999,167	% Growth 01-02	13.01%	\$89,286,830	% Growth 01-02	3.84%
2001	\$774,294,890	% Growth 00-01	(10.21%)	\$85,985,308	% Growth 00-01	5.53%
2000	\$862,664,669			\$81,478,979		
		% Growth 00-06	30.76%		% Growth 00-06	22.35%

The city's share of county entertainment revenues has remained at or above 30% since 2000. The city's share of county sales revenues is lower (hovering around 20%), reflecting competition from suburban big box stores.

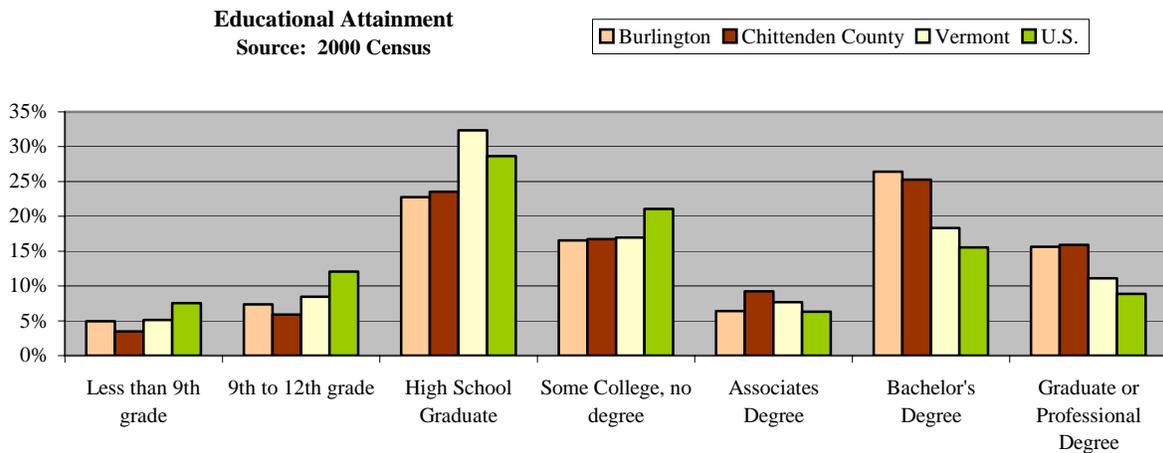
Burlington's Share of Chittenden County Sales and Entertainment Revenues		
Source: Vermont Tax Department, Updated Reports		
Year	Rooms, Meals & Alcohol	Gross Receipts
2006	30.03%	19.59%
2005	30.81%	19.12%
2004	31.80%	20.48%
2003	32.72%	18.87%
2002	33.06%	19.07%
2001	32.39%	17.66%
2000	31.82%	18.43%

Factors Affecting Economic Opportunity

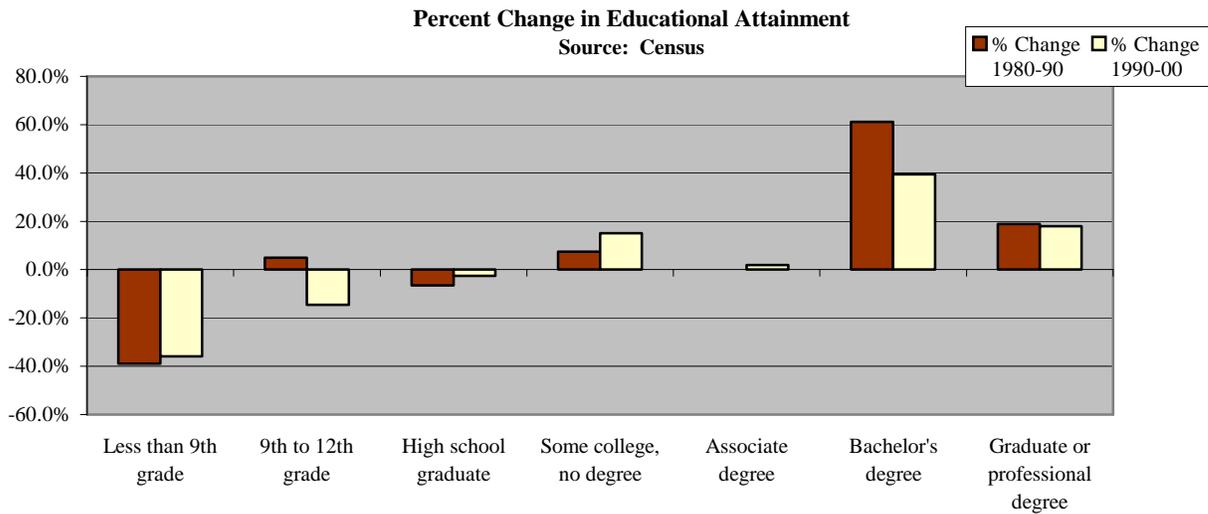
This section of the Plan looks at the major factors that support or impede economic opportunity for local residents, and describes some of what exists to help meet existing needs.

Education

Burlington residents as a whole are well-educated, with 65% of those age 25 and older reporting some post-secondary education in the 2000 Census and 42% having at least a bachelor's degree. The city's rate for residents having at least a bachelor's degree (26%) was substantially higher than state (18.3%) and national (15.5%) norms. The city's rate for residents with a graduate or professional degree (15.6%) is also higher than state (11.1%) and national (8.9%) averages.

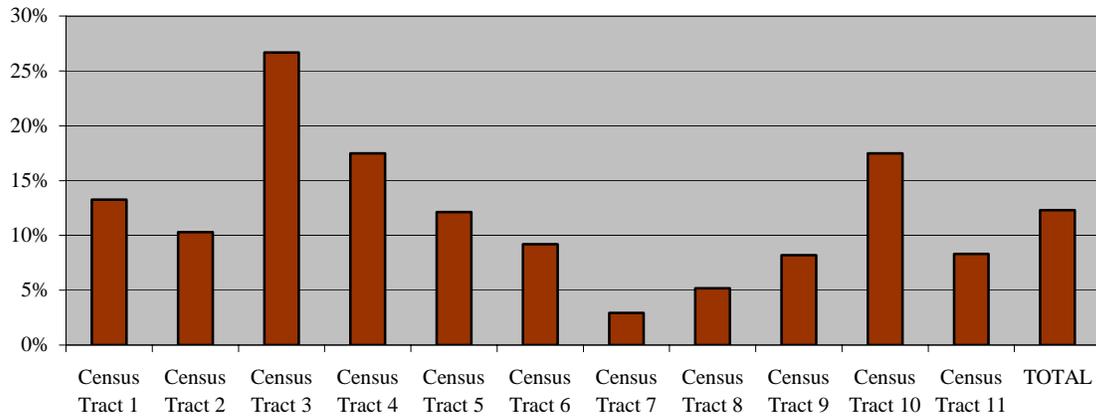


And, Burlington residents are becoming more well-educated over time:



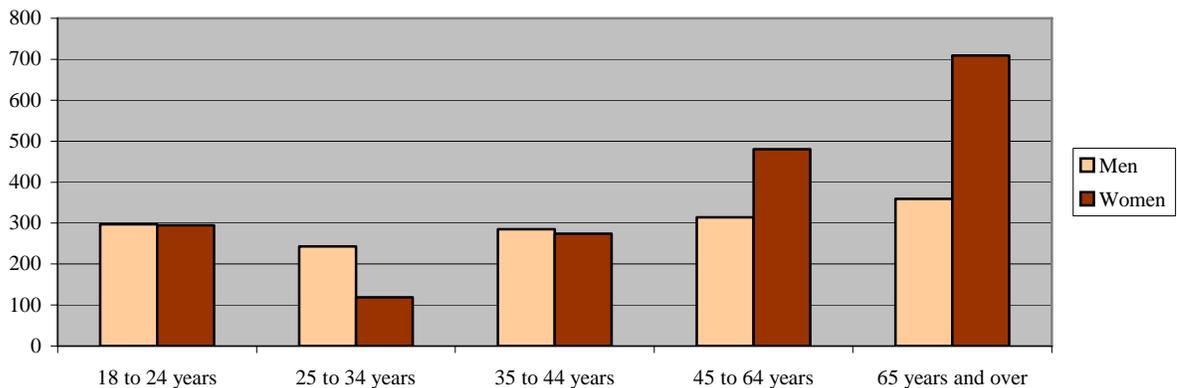
At the same time, however, 12% of the city’s adult residents – and over a quarter of adult residents in some Old North End neighborhoods (especially census tract 3) – had less than a high school diploma. (There is a map of the city’s census tracts on page B-1.)

Residents Without a High School Diploma or Equivalency
 Source: 2000 Census

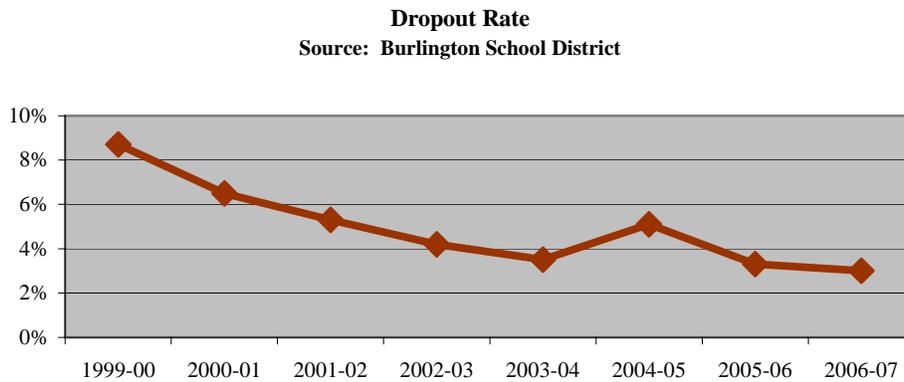


For women, but not men, lack of a high school diploma or equivalency is related to age; for both women and men, the 2000 Census showed high school completion trending in the wrong direction among the youngest (18 to 24 year old) group.

Residents without a High School Diploma or Equivalency
 Source: 2000 Census



However, the drop out rate in Burlington has improved significantly over the last seven years:



The Burlington Truancy Project, begun in 1999, is part of that success. The project works with parents, social work support from the Howard Center and the State's Attorney's Office to increase school attendance. After six years of implementation (through the 2005-06 school year), the number of students who missed five or more days of school (for any reason including illness) dropped by more than 25%.

Post-secondary education/training is necessary for almost all livable wage jobs. In 2007, 85% of students in the Burlington High School graduating class were going on to post-secondary education at a college or university. There are several local programs aimed at helping disadvantaged residents aim for and complete post-secondary education. The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) manages several federally-funded educational opportunity programs that help low-income students become the first generation in their family to attend college. Last year, VSAC reached 93 Burlington residents through its High School Outreach Services and 142 Burlington residents through its Adult Outreach Services. Community College of Vermont offers a variety of English, math, computer, and other courses (called Developmental Skills Courses) to help students become ready for college-level courses. The Single Parent Program at Champlain College has increased its Single Parent Scholarship. In addition to covering tuition costs for financially eligible, full time single parent students, this program provides support services which include a summer orientation workshop; free tutoring and counseling; and referral to full-time, part-time, seasonal, temporary and work study jobs.

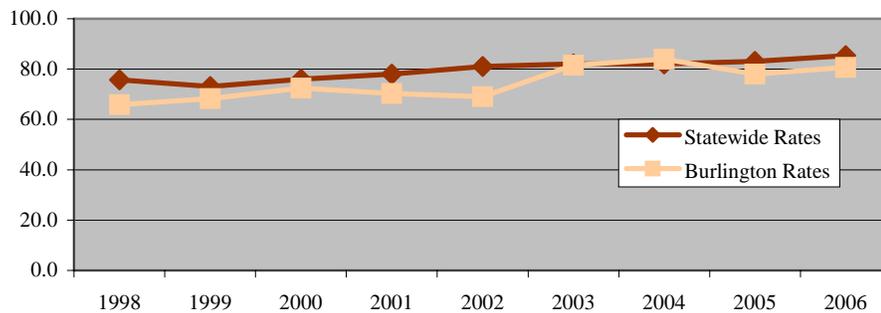
There are also programs to help residents complete their high school equivalency and further their life-long learning and skills upgrading. Vermont Adult Learning and Mercy Connections, Inc., offer help with obtaining a General Education Development (GED) certificate. In 1984, Vermont became the only state in the country to offer non-degree grants for continuing education and skills improvement. One hundred and twenty-five Burlington residents received non-degree grants last year. Traditionally, VSAC was not

able to meet the demand for these grants, but funding has now substantially increased through the work of Vermont’s Next Generation Commission.

Early school success fosters long-term educational success. In 1998, only 66% of Burlington second graders were meeting the state reading standard. Scores have showed gains since then, though not always consistently trending higher. Factors mitigating against rising scores include a high level of children with identified special education needs (13%), a high level of children coming from at-risk environments (20% of Burlington children were living in poverty in 2000), and rising levels of children with limited English proficiency (discussed further below), particularly at neighborhood schools located in high poverty areas of the city. The School District and the community are in the middle of an extended discussion about school equity and about structural changes which would best ensure that all students can achieve to their highest potential.

Percent of Second Graders Who Met or Exceeded State Reading Standards

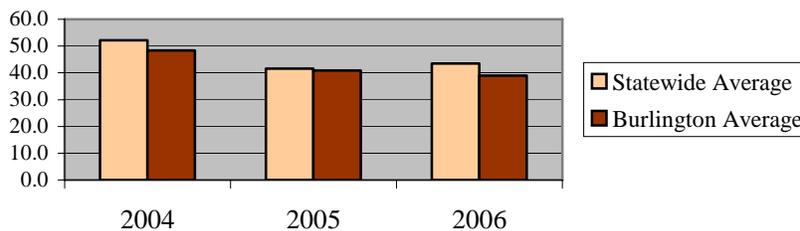
Source: AHS Community Profiles



Having children ready for kindergarten, and prepared to succeed in school, is a focus for the state, the region and the city. Kindergarten readiness is measured by surveys completed each year by kindergarten teachers across five domains: approaches to learning; cognitive development/general knowledge; communication; socio-emotional development; and health. Burlington lags slightly behind the statewide averages for readiness, and trends are not moving in the right direction.

Percent of Children Meeting Standards for Kindergarten Readiness in All Five Domains

Source: AHS Community Profiles

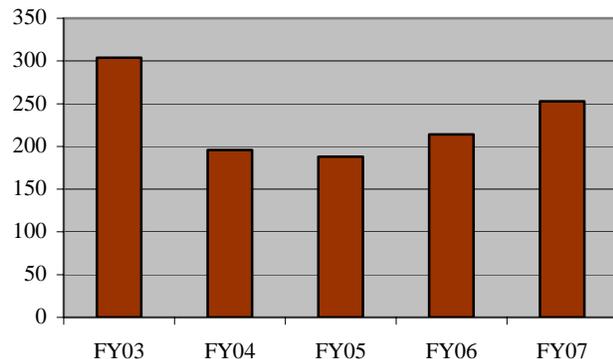


In September 2002, the Burlington School District entered into a formal partnership with community early childhood programs to increase and support the accessibility, affordability, and quality of preschool programs for young children and their families in order to maximize young children’s learning and development before they enter kindergarten. Through the Early Learning Partnership (ELP), qualified early care providers can access public education funds. The ELP requires programs to be NAEYC accredited and/or have received at least 4 stars through Vermont’s Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) and to have at least one teacher who has a current Vermont teaching license. ELP funds help to:

- Cover the tuition gap for parents with subsidized state funding. Without these dollars, programs would not be able to serve as many children from low-income families.
- Expand programs, creating more preschool slots and supporting the start-up costs of new programs.
- Add additional staff, allowing programs to lower their teacher to child ratio in the classroom and children to receive more individual attention as needed.
- Increase compensation and benefit packages for early childhood educators, helping to reduce teacher turnover in programs and to thereby increase stability and consistency in the adults who care for and educate preschoolers.
- Provide more professional development for staff, helping them to pay for college courses to maintain or achieve licensure and increasing the number of teachers in these programs who have their early childhood endorsement from 11 in 2002 to 30 in 2007.
- Align curriculum between early childhood programs and kindergarten.

In the FY07 school year, 253 Burlington preschoolers (or around 35% of all preschoolers) were enrolled in an ELP program. There was a drop in ELP enrollment after the FY03 school year because of a clarification of state rules regarding the minimum age allowable for enrollment. The number of private programs participating in the ELP has increased from eight to nineteen.

Enrolled in Accredited Preschool Programs Receiving Public Education Funding
Source: Burlington School District



HeadStart services are delivered locally by the Champlain Valley of Economic Opportunity (the local Community Action agency), and are integrated with a number of the ELP programs. Currently, HeadStart is serving 81 Burlington children. The Vermont Early Education Initiative

(EEI) funds collaborative, community-based early childhood education services to three- and four-year-old children at risk of school failure, identifying those children early and funding gaps when other services are unavailable or insufficient. EEI services are also integrated with a number of the ELP programs. The Essential Early Education (EEE) program provides early intervention for those children 3–5 who have significant developmental delays and/or disabilities. Children from birth to three years of age who require early intervention services are served by the Family-Infant Toddler Program.

English Proficiency

Around 10% of the city’s population speaks a language other than English at home. The ability to speak more than one language is an increasing valuable asset in the job market. However, limited English proficiency is a barrier to economic opportunity in the local job market.

Principal Language Source: 2000 Census	# of Linguistically Isolated Households
Spanish	26
Other Indo-European Languages	276
Asian and Pacific Island Languages	98
Other Languages	14

In 2000, a total of 414 households (2.6% of the city’s households)

identified themselves as “linguistically isolated,” i.e., a household in which no person 14 years old and over speaks only English and – for those household members who speak a language other than English – no person 14 years old and over speaks English “very well.” In Burlington, the principal household languages other than English are Serbo-Croatian, Vietnamese, Russian, French and Mai Mai.

Most residents with limited English proficiency are working-age adults:

Source: 2000 Census	5 – 17 years	18 – 64 years	65 years and older
# of residents who speak English “not well” or “not at all”	49	518	51

However, there are increasing numbers of children who need improved English proficiency. There are 47 different languages spoken by children in the Burlington School District, and 11% have an identified need for English for Speaker of Other Languages (ESOL) services.

ESOL services are available through the School District, through the city’s Fletcher Free Library (for both adults and children), through the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, at the Community College of Vermont and St. Michael’s College, and through Vermont Adult Learning.

Disabilities

The 2000 Census reported the following numbers of residents age 5 and older living with a disability:

Sensory disability	Physical disability	Mental disability	Self-care disability	Go-outside-home disability	Employment disability
1,122	2,322	2,157	633	1,656	2,649

Seven percent of children age 5 to 15 had a reported disability; a mental disability was the most frequently reported type of disability, mentioned in over 80% of the reports. Ten percent of residents age 16 to 20 and 16% of residents age 21 to 64 reported some kind of disability.

For children and working age adults, disabilities clearly affect poverty status:

Poverty Rates Source: 2000 Census						
	With a disability			With no disability		
	Burlington	Chittenden County	Vermont	Burlington	Chittenden County	Vermont
Age 5 to 15	49.60%	19.44%	21.31%	18.80%	7.11%	10.17%
Age 16 to 20	39.80%	19.21%	19.12%	37.90%	17.46%	14.46%
Age 20 to 64	30.50%	16.68%	16.57%	17.30%	7.01%	6.72%
Age 65 and older	13.80%	11.86%	6.35%	8.30%	11.74%	6.15%

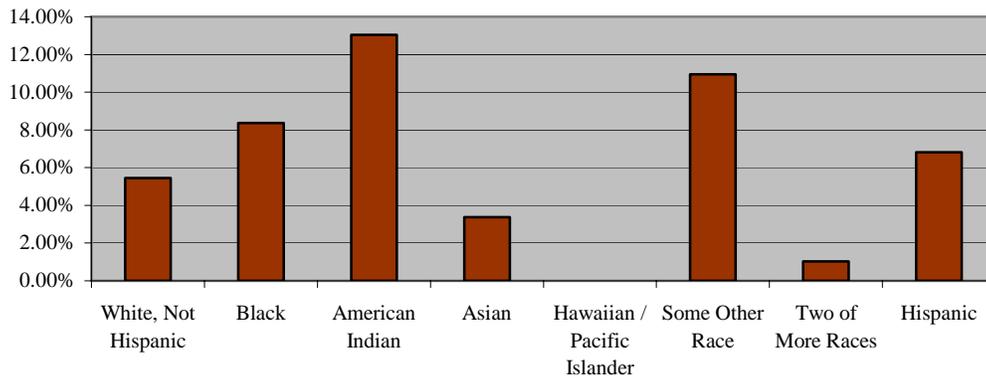
The employment rate for residents age 21 to 64 reporting a disability was 56%, as contrasted with 81% for residents in that age group reporting no disability.

The Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VocRehab Vermont) works with the Vermont Association of Business, Industry & Rehabilitation (VABIR) and with community-based mental health and developmental disability agencies to help disabled residents become and stay employed. VocRehab Vermont is currently focusing in particular on transition age youth as well as serving TANF recipients and ex-offenders with disabilities. VocRehab Vermont helps public benefits beneficiaries take advantage of work incentives programs and increase their income without losing benefits. Vermont was one of four states chosen by the Social Security Administration in 2005 to test what would happen if the “benefits cliff” were eliminated for SSDI beneficiaries.

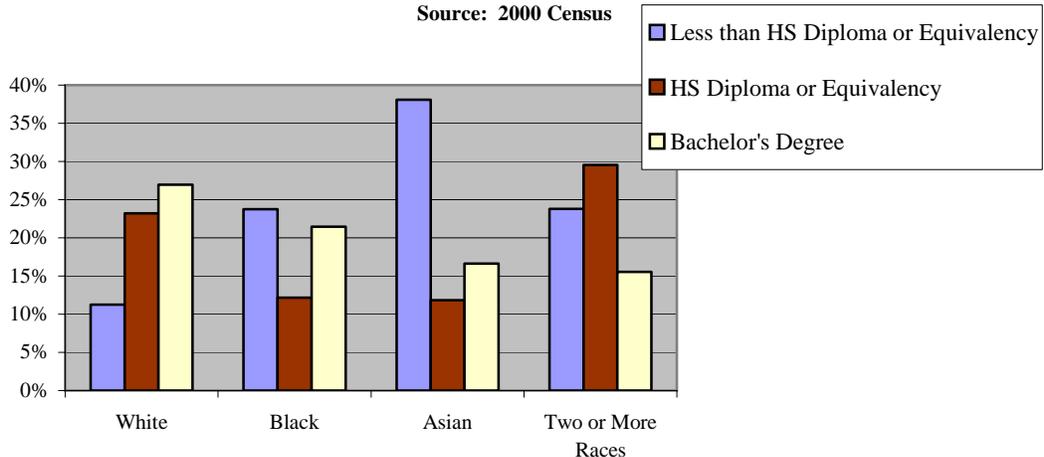
Race

As of the 2000 Census, median household income for black residents was less than 60% that of white residents; poverty rates were 1.5 times higher for individual black residents, and 2.6 times higher for black families, than for white households; the unemployment rate for black residents was 1.5 times higher that for white residents; and over twice as many black residents as white did not have a high school diploma or equivalency. Residents who identified themselves as American Indian and as “some other race” were experiencing similar disparities in income and unemployment, while disparities in education appeared for all minorities reported by the Census. And, as discussed on page 2-10, income disparities are significantly trending in the wrong direction.

Unemployment Rates, Race and Ethnicity
 Source: 2000 Census



Education and Race
 Source: 2000 Census



As part of its Legacy Project, the city has hired a Social Equity Coordinator to work on city and school employment practices and on other opportunities for economic and social advancement for ethnically and culturally diverse populations. The Social Equity Coordinator has developed an inclusive Social Equity Investment Project (SEIP) to help Burlington adequately support increased ethnic and cultural diversity, “cultural shifting,” and the associated growing pains. The objective of the SEIP is to identify and support leadership that can collaborate and help facilitate sustainable effective social change. The SEIP, including the city and partners, meets monthly to identify and support non-adversarial work to remove systematic barriers and accommodation of differences so that ethnically and culturally diverse populations can benefit equally. Uncommon Alliance, a collaboration between committed community people of color and local law enforcement, is examining data around racial profiling. The city is also participating as one of seven cities nationally in the Communities for Racial Equity (CRE) initiative, funded by the Mott and Kellogg Foundation and the National Study Circle Resource Center.

Domestic Violence

Abusive partners often discourage or prevent their victims from working, harass their victims at work, or create economic insecurity through interference with bank accounts, credit history or rental history. Sample research has shown that:

- 74 % of employed battered women reported being harassed by their husbands or partners in the workplace either in person or over the telephone.
- 96 % of employees who were victims of domestic violence reported some type of workplace problem as a direct result of their abuse.
- As many as 60% of domestic violence victims lose their jobs.

Sources: Voices of Survival: The Economic Impacts of Domestic Violence, A Blueprint for Action (October 2002) and Domestic Violence: Prevalence and Implications for Employment Among Welfare Recipients, U.S. General Accounting Office (November 1998), summarizing research findings.

Childcare

As of the 2000 Census, 65% of all Burlington children under six – and 75% of all children age 6 to 17 – were living with parents who were all working. Those were higher percentages than the national averages of 59% and 67%, respectively.

Available, affordable childcare is a prerequisite to labor force participation for many households, and particularly for female-headed households. The availability of childcare also affects the ability of parents to upgrade their skills through career education and vocational training.

The remaining information in this section comes from Child Care Resource and the Child Development Division of the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

The affordability of childcare for families is a pressing issue. The income eligibility levels to qualify for childcare subsidy assistance have not changed since 1999. Originally set to offer help to families up to 225% of the poverty level, the program now offers help to fewer and fewer eligible families. In 2000, there were 768 Burlington children receiving a subsidy; in 2003, there were 729 Burlington children receiving a subsidy; now, there are 503 Burlington children receiving a subsidy.

The chart below gives a sense of the percent of subsidy paid at various income levels:

% of Subsidy Paid by the State	Family size			
	3 or fewer	4	5	6 or more
100%	\$13,884	\$16,704	\$19,524	\$22,344
50%	\$24,000	\$28,896	\$33,804	\$38,724
10%	\$31,032	\$37,380	\$43,740	\$50,112

There continues to be a significant gap between the actual market rate for care and the amount covered by the childcare subsidy. The objective of the subsidy program is to ensure that lower-income families have equal access to childcare and pay no more than 10% of their income as a co-pay. Right now, however, a single parent with two young children would pay up to 46% of his/her income in out-of-pocket childcare expenses.

Out-of-Pocket Expenses by Type of Care	Weekly Subsidy	Weekly Market rate	Weekly out of pocket expense: 100% eligible	Annual out of pocket expense: 100% eligible	Weekly out of pocket expense: 50% eligible	Annual out of pocket expense: 50% eligible
Family Child Care						
Infant	\$104.00	\$155.00	\$51.00	\$2,625	\$103.00	\$5,356
Toddler	\$102.96	\$131.00	\$28.04	\$1,458	\$79.52	\$4,135
Preschool	\$ 89.30	\$125.00	\$35.70	\$1,856	\$80.35	\$4,178
School-Age	\$ 89.30	\$75.00	\$14.30	\$356	\$58.95	\$3,065
Child Care Center						
Infant	\$129.22	\$189.00	\$59.78	\$3,109	\$124.39	\$6,468
Toddler	\$128.15	\$189.00	\$60.85	\$3,164	\$124.92	\$6,496
Preschool	\$114.14	\$174.00	\$59.86	\$3,113	\$116.93	\$6,080
School-Age	\$111.36	\$80.00	\$31.36	\$1,631	\$ 87.04	\$4,526

There are four basic categories of child care providers in Vermont. Registered Home Child Care programs are in the caretakers' home and are state-regulated. Licensed Child programs are most often center-based and are also regulated by the state. Legally Exempt Child Care takes place in the provider's home, with the provider caring for children from two or fewer families; the state oversees these programs but the providers are not required to attend trainings. Informal Child Care is not regulated by the state.

The availability of childcare in Burlington depends on the type of setting:

Type of Setting	# of Programs	% of County Total Programs	# of Slots	# of Openings	Burlington Vacancy Rate	County Vacancy Rate
Family Child Care	34	16%	243	67	28%	17%
Child Care Centers	25	16%	705	19	2%	6%
Licensed School-Aged Care	10		449	29	6%	9%
TOTAL	69		1,397	115		

Since February 2006, two Family Child Care programs (with 16 slots) closed, but four have opened, adding 26 new slots to the community inventory. One Licensed Child Care Center closed, with a loss of 20 slots.

Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is an indicator of quality in the childcare field. Of the 25 licensed child care centers in Burlington, 16 are NAEYC accredited. Of the total 41 NAEYC-accredited programs in the county, 39% are located in Burlington.

Consistency among caretakers is key to quality care. In 2006, Child Care Resource funded a Chittenden County survey of childcare center wages, benefits and staffing challenges. About half (49%) of the centers that responded to the survey reported losing at least one employee during the three months prior to the survey. The overall turnover rate averaged 8% during this period, and the assistant teacher turnover rate averaged 20%.

Number of Employees Leaving Centers in Past 3 Months		
Number of employees that left employment in last 3 months	Number of Centers	Percent of Centers
None	24	51%
One	10	21%
Two	8	17%
Three	3	6%
Four	1	2%
Six	1	2%
Total	47	100%

Turnover in Past Three Months across Center Positions				
Position	Number of Centers providing information on position	Number of Centers with turnover in position	Percentage with Turnover in position	Average Turnover Rate
Director	44	4	9%	7%
Assistant Director	15	1	7%	7%
Head Teacher	29	4	14%	3%
Teacher	36	4	11%	3%
Assistant Teacher	32	14	44%	20%
Other staff	30	6	20%	13%
All positions combined	47	23	49%	8%

While there were no clear relationships between turnover rates and characteristics of centers or wages, some specific benefits were associated with lower turnover rates among some positions. Centers offering health insurance and financial support for professional development (including continuing education and college courses) had lower turnover rates, particularly among head teachers, teachers, and assistant teachers. Programs offering reduced rates for children of staff to attend the program had lower assistant teacher turnover rates.

Childcare is in itself an industry, employing around 225 people in Burlington in full-time licensed and registered settings. Many workers in this industry, however, do not make a livable wage:

2006 Wage Survey, Licensed Centers		Livable Wage			
Position	Ranges of Hourly Wages	Single Person w/ Employer Health Coverage	Single Person w/out Employer Health Coverage	Single Parent w/ One Child w/ Employer Health Coverage	2 Adults, 2 Children, 2 Wage Earners w/ Health Benefits (per Wage Earner)
Director	\$9.62 - \$25.84				
Assistant Director	\$10.00 - \$18.39				
Head Teacher	\$8.00 - \$21.64	\$13.94	\$15.83	\$21.57	\$17.79
Teacher	\$8.00 - \$16.75				
Assistant Teacher	\$7.25 - \$12.62				

In the 2006 survey, there were no differences in wages for most positions due to center characteristics and quality indicators. Directors' and head teachers' wages, however, did differ on some of these measures: Centers serving more children paid higher director wages, and centers with accreditation paid higher director and head teacher wages than those without accreditation. Director and teacher wages were also significantly related to staff credentials. Specifically, as the number of staff members with bachelor's degrees increased, so did the directors' and teachers' wages. In addition, as the number of staff

members with master's degrees increased, wages increased for directors, head teachers, and teachers.

Most of the issues affecting the affordability and availability of childcare are federal and state, and not local, ones. However, the city will continue to work with the childcare community to find solutions, including current efforts such as participating in the Regional Early Childhood Planning Group and supporting the Early Learning Partnership. The city will also provide business advice and technical assistance to providers.

Transportation

Single-occupancy vehicles remain a primary means of transportation to work. According to the 2000 Census, 62% of Burlington workers drove alone in their cars to get to work. Transportation costs for those who drive to work are increasing. In December 2001, the average retail price per gallon of gasoline in Vermont was \$1.12; in December 2007, it had almost tripled, rising to \$3.11.

As of the 2000 Census, around 3,500 residents – or 17% of the Burlington workforce – were walking to work, and around 800 Burlington residents were using public transportation to get to work. Burlington workers represented two-thirds of the county workforce using public transportation. For Burlington workers who use the bus to get to work in the city, there is fairly good coverage Monday through Saturday during regular work hours. Service during second and third shift hours and on Sundays and holidays is more limited.

Public transportation to areas outside the city does not reach a number of significant job centers because the local bus system (the Chittenden County Transportation Authority, or CCTA) is dependant on local property tax revenues from only five local participating municipalities – Burlington, South Burlington, Essex, Winooski, and Shelburne – and its services are concentrated in those member communities. CCTA does offer ridesharing services in other communities, bus service outside the county to Middlebury, Montpelier and St. Albans, a fixed-route segment in Colchester, and services in the town of Williston under the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program. CCTA provides ADA complementary paratransit and some Medicaid transportation services through a contract with the Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA), a private non-profit organization that provides van transportation services for people with specialized mobility needs, primarily the elderly and persons with disabilities. There is general consensus that there needs to be an alternative to the property tax to adequately fund public transportation and to provide for growth in its use, but there is no consensus on what alternative funding mechanisms should be.

The Good News Garage, which began in Burlington in 1996, provides donated refurbished vehicles to low-income workers as well as job-related rides to low-income

Vermonters through its Ready to Go service. Through its NEWheels program, Opportunities Credit Union is partnering with three local car dealers to offer new cars at greatly reduced prices. Chittenden Community Action can provide bus passes to low-income residents. And, a car share program will be starting up this year.

Transportation assistance is also available through employer Transportation Management Associations (TMAs). The Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) is a highly successful TMA which offers employees and students of the institutions located in the Hill section of the city a variety of benefits designed to shift them away from single-occupant-vehicle commuting, including:

- carpool/vanpool incentives;
- staggered work and class scheduling;
- a joint, confidential carpool matching program (RidesWork);
- mass transit subsidies and an Unlimited Access Program;
- a pedestrian walkways and bikeway system;
- flex time policies;
- a guaranteed ride home program;
- a bike/walk incentives program;
- telecommuting; and
- an extensive shuttle bus system connecting CATMA institutions with off-site parking lots, and also providing transportation within the CATMA area.

A similar organization and focus is needed for the downtown/waterfront area. CATMA has expressed willingness to provide assistance in getting the organization going, and the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) has set aside funds in its work program to assist in forming a downtown TMA. The city should do anything it can to help such an organization get launched, including participating as an important downtown employer.

Financial Literacy

On a national level, the total debt Americans owe exceeds the total income they earn, personal savings have fallen below zero percent, and more children will now suffer through their parents' bankruptcy than their parents' divorce. As of 2004, according to a study by CardWeb.Com, Inc., the average Vermont family was carrying a staggering \$17,000 in credit card debt – the highest in the nation and almost double the national average of \$9,205.

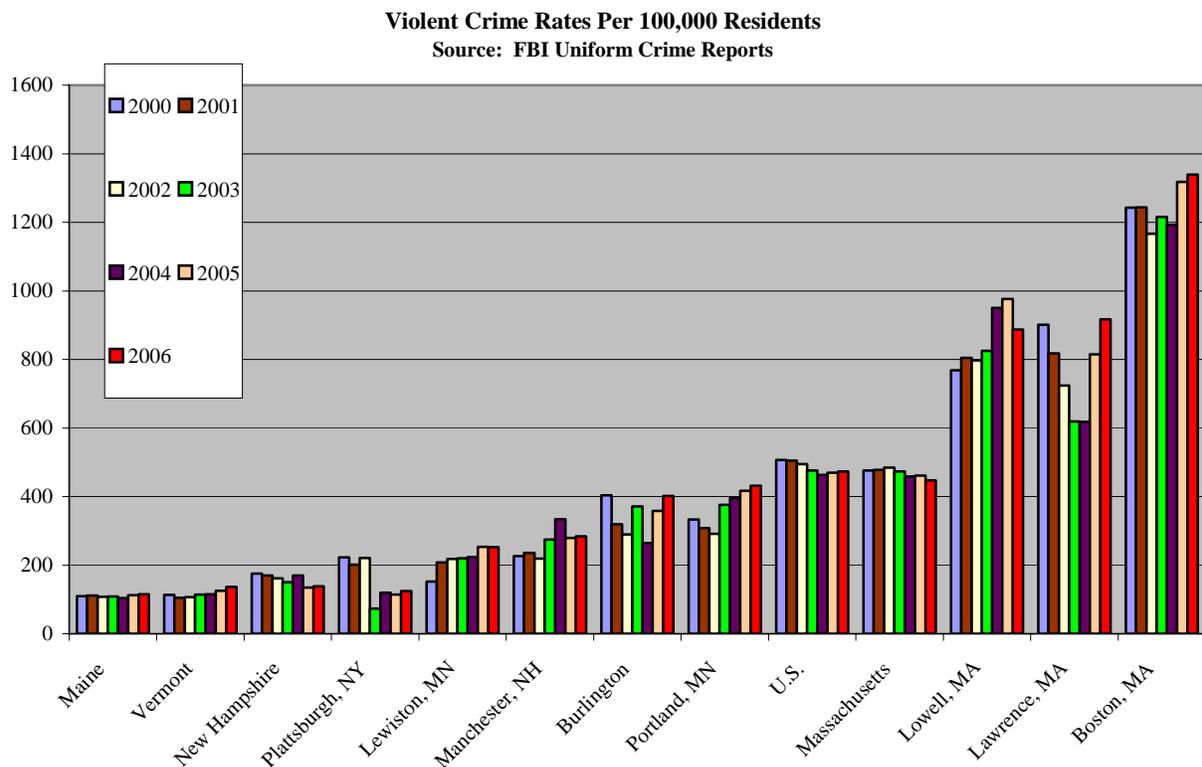
No amount of financial education can help a family balance their budget and live within their means when basic living costs exceed income. However, evidence from local financial education classes for low- and moderate-income residents shows that financial education can lead to reduced debt, increased savings, less use of predatory lenders, and increased feelings of financial security. Financial education and credit counseling are available on a regular through members of the CASH Coalition of Chittenden County.

Factors Affecting a Suitable Living Environment

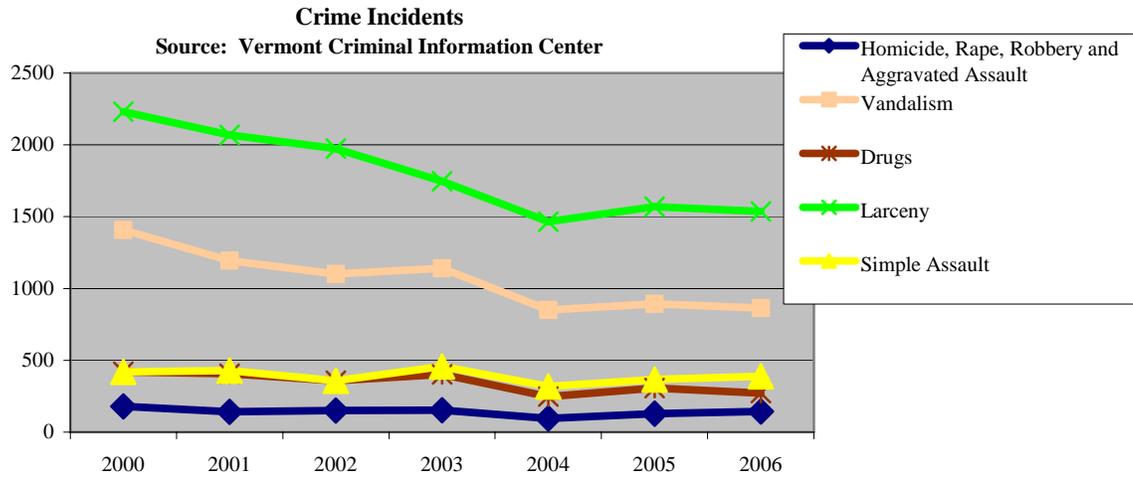
In 2007, the University of Vermont, working with the city, surveyed residents in Burlington’s Old North End to see what residents viewed as major quality of life challenges. Residents identified the quality of the general environment (noise, parking, trash dumping, traffic); crime and safety (especially theft, violence, property destruction, fighting and domestic abuse); alcohol and drug abuse; and tension with college students as their most pressing concerns. This section of the Plan examines a number of those issues as well as looking at community facilities and infrastructure, energy conservation and historic preservation.

Crime

Vermont is a low-crime state, ranking consistently among the three lowest violent crime rates in the nation. As an urban center, Burlington’s violent crime rate is higher than the state average. The city’s rate is lower than the national rate; it is lower than some other urban areas in the region, but higher than others.



Incidents of violent crimes (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault), drug offenses, simple assault and vandalism are generally falling, although the numbers were trending in the wrong direction from 2004 to 2006.

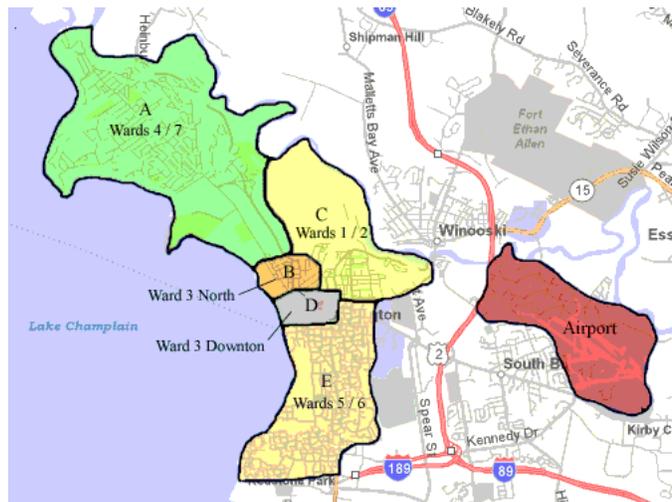


Broken out by neighborhoods, crime incidents in 2007 in Burlington look like this:

2007 Crime Incidents					
Source: Burlington Police Department					
Type of Crime	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D	Area E
Violent (includes homicide, robbery, sexual assault, kidnapping, larceny from the person, burglar and domestic violence)*	66	179	181	91	124
Vandalism	66	196	153	195	120
Assaults (simple, aggravated and assault on law enforcement)	27	59	47	91	36
Larcenies (from building, car, other and retail theft)	174	201	271	263	256
Drugs	11	38	26	28	7

*The definition of violent crime is different here than in the charts above.

Area A includes Wards 4 and 7.
Area B is the north section of Ward 3.
Area C includes Wards 1 and 2.
Area D is the downtown area of the city.
Area E includes Wards 5 and 6.



The Burlington Police Department moved to Community Policing in 1999, partnering with stakeholders from other city departments, the community and various service sectors to carry out mutually agreed solutions to problems which may vary from an emphasis on compliance with liquor control laws and ordinances to maintain a high quality of life in the downtown area to an emphasis on noise issues in the hill section (close to the University) to working citywide to reduce drug activity and to keep roads and highways safe.

The Community Support Program makes a certified mediator available to city residents to help resolve neighborhood or neighbor disputes. Last year, the program responded to over 150 disputes ranging from noise, trash and disorder, parking, landlord/tenant or roommate disputes, to animal or children's behavior.

The Public Safety Program (later the Burlington Neighborhood Project) was started in the 1990's to promote actual and perceived public safety in Burlington's neighborhoods by improving the physical and social environment of low-income areas. Beginning with three street-level neighborhood associations, the project expanded to over 50 active associations.

At the city's Community Justice Center, the community works to rebuild the trust destroyed by crime through volunteers who fix broken windows, meet with people who have committed a crime, clean graffiti, and provide support and information to victims. In 2007, 252 offenders worked with panels of community volunteers to repair the harm they had caused. The Parallel Justice Project provides support to victims of crime regardless of whether the offender is caught, assisting 228 victims last year.

The city has historically funded the Women's Rape Crisis Center to provide both community education and support for victims of sexual assault. The city has also provided funding to SafeSpace to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) victims of sexual, domestic and hate crimes.

Safety in the Home

Domestic Violence

National estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence ranges from 23% to 66%. Studies have indicated that battering is the single major cause of injury to women, more significant than auto accidents, rapes, or muggings. The economic and housing impacts of domestic violence have been previously discussed in this Plan. The impact on children includes significant behavioral and/or emotional problems and the increased likelihood of repeating patterns of abuse and victimization as adults.

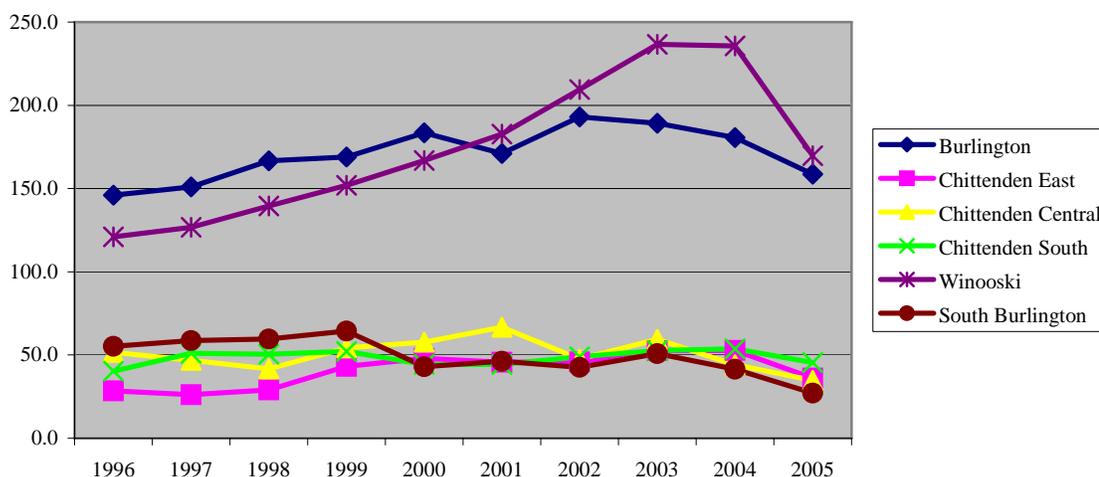
The city has historically funded the local domestic violence agency, Women Helping Battered Women, to provide both community education and victim support. The city also served as the fiscal agent for a Safe Havens supervised visitation grant, which principally served children in domestic violence situations.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect has long-term impacts on the physical and mental health, cognitive skills and educational attainment, and social and behavioral development of its victims. Children who are abused and/or neglected are at greater risk for failure in school, with lower grades, lower standardized test scores, frequent retention in the same grade, and higher drop out rates. Lower levels of emotional stability and self-regulation, problem solving skills, and the ability to cope with or adapt to new or stressful situations contribute to difficulties both in school and outside of school. Victims of abuse often act out with antisocial behavior and physical aggression.

Substantiated Victims of Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse or Neglect, Aged 0-17 Years, per 10,000 Population

Source: 2006 AHS Community Profiles



The city has little direct service involvement in the area of child abuse and neglect, but the issue is nonetheless one of municipal concern. The city does participate in the Regional Early Childhood Planning Group, which has chosen to focus on child abuse and neglect as one of three priorities in the next few years, to work with the community to look at the underlying factors that are driving the data, and to develop steps to address policies and practices to affect the issue. The KidSafe Collaborative of Chittenden County addresses child abuse and neglect at the family level through its KidSafe Child Protection Team and at the community level by working to improve the protective, legal, medical and social systems which respond to child abuse.

Noise, Graffiti and Trash

The city updated its noise ordinance in 2003 to increase monetary penalties. The ordinance includes a range of sanctions (from fines and community service to criminal sanctions) that can be imposed when there are noise disturbances. Property owners of rental housing are required by ordinance to furnish a copy of the city noise control ordinance to tenants at the beginning of the rental term.

Allowing trash to accumulate in front yards or right-of-way locations is a violation of the city's solid waste regulations and can subject property owners to tickets, fines and pick-ups fees. The city helps to organize neighborhood clean-ups, with rented dumpsters and concerted resident efforts, which have been very successful; Community Based Action Teams (which brought interdepartmental problem solving and clean up assistance to neighborhoods once they organized, as an incentive for organizing) removed more than 150 tons of trash and debris from neighborhoods over a ten-year period. Funding for these clean-ups, however, is disappearing.

In 2007, the city passed a graffiti ordinance which imposes civil penalties of a \$500 fine on anyone caught defacing property, waivable on completion of community service involving graffiti removal. The city's Graffiti Removal Team (GRT) has been distributing free clean-up kits and leading groups of volunteers on clean-ups of tagging in Burlington since 2001.

Health Care

In 2004, Fletcher Allen, in collaboration with community partners, conducted an assessment of community assets and needs in Chittenden County. Health care costs were one of three major health improvement priorities identified in the survey portion of the assessment. (The other two were substance abuse and physical health, including obesity, poor nutrition and lack of exercise.) These same issues were identified in a 2007 update of the survey.

Vermont and the city of Burlington do have an array of programs to help low- and moderate-income residents access health care:

- The city has School-Based Health Clinics located in two elementary schools serving 450 students in high-poverty neighborhoods. These clinics provide basic health, mental health and (at one school) dental services.
- The state's Dr. Dinosaur program covers children up to 300% of poverty and pregnant women up to 200% of poverty with no co-pays and a sliding scale premium. Vermont has the lowest (4%) percent of uninsured children (age 17 and under) in the country.

- The Vermont Health Access Program covers uninsured adults up to 150% of poverty (with no children) or 185% of poverty (with children). It requires co-pays on emergency room visits only and has sliding scale premiums.
- Prescription assistance programs including VPharm, VHAP-Pharmacy, VScript and Healthy Vermonters, with eligibility based on income, disability status and age. There are also pharmaceutical manufacturers programs which offer free or discounted prescription drugs.
- Catamount Health, which went into effect in October 2007, covers the uninsured who do not qualify for Medicaid, VHAP or Dr. Dynasaur. Uninsureds with income under 300% of poverty receive a sliding scale state subsidy for coverage; uninsureds with incomes 300% and above poverty level get no subsidy but can buy policies under Catamount at full price.

Despite these programs, the problem of access – of getting people enrolled into programs for which they are eligible – remains. And medical debt here, as nationally, overwhelms many residents. The city cannot solve the macro problem of rising health care costs for residents, but it can support access to those programs which do exist.

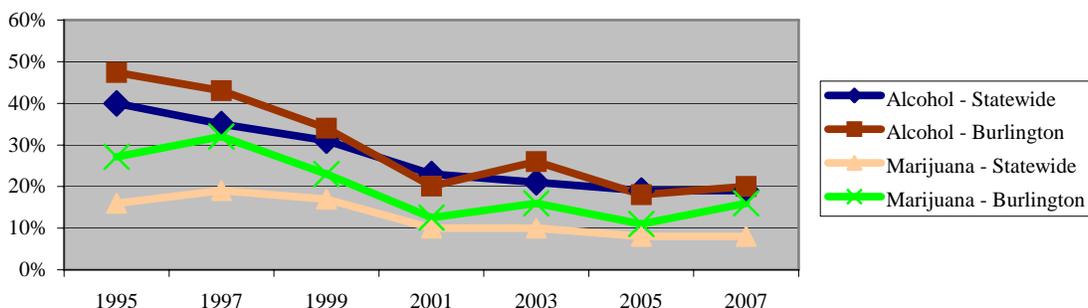
Youth Development

Substance abuse among young people puts them at higher risk for driving accidents, unintended pregnancies, and dependency. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or problems with alcohol abuse at some time in their lives. In 2007, 20% of Burlington public school students reported that they began drinking before age 13, and 12% reported using marijuana before age 13.

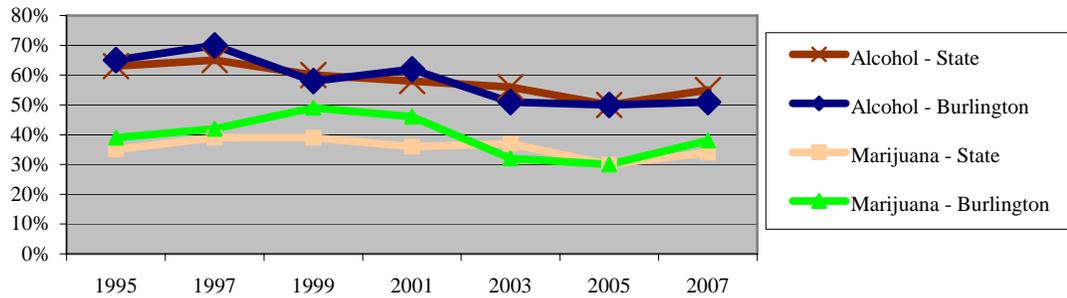
The trends on use of alcohol and marijuana among Burlington 8th graders and seniors had been headed in the right direction, but increasing numbers in both age groups reported marijuana use in 2007. And, over half said they know an adult who uses illegal drugs.

8th Graders Reporting Substance Use Within the Last 30 Days

Source: AHS Community Profiles



High School Seniors Reporting Substance Use Within the Last 30 Days
Source: AHS Community Profiles

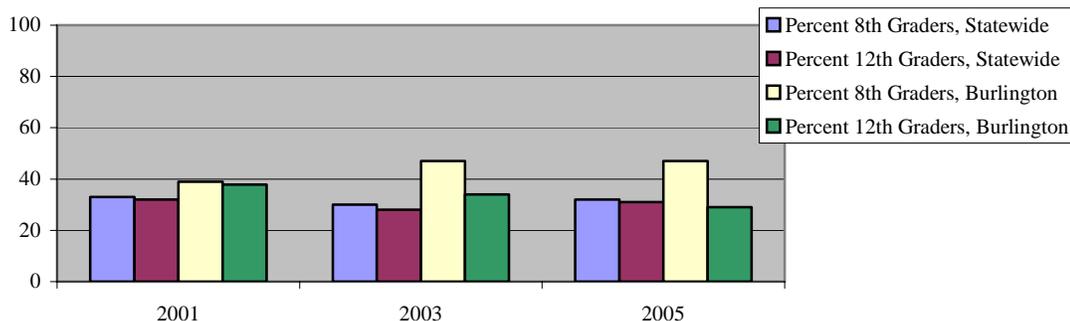


The Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community is a state-funded substance abuse prevention coalition which will be focusing, in particular, on reducing underage drinking, marijuana use among persons under the age of 25, and high-risk drinking for persons under 25. This last focus area may help to reduce some of the late-night tensions between college students and neighborhood residents.

Youth programs can provide a safe and positive after school and summer environment, helping to improve social competencies and to reduce risk behaviors, including substance abuse. Youth programs are provided by the city, by the school district and by nonprofits such as the Boys & Girls Club, the Sara Holbrook Community Center, the King Street Youth Center, the New North End Youth Center, the YMCA and the IMANI Health Institute.

In the Burlington School District, across all ages, 60% of the students are enrolled in after school programs. Information on middle and high school youth program participation rates, gathered from statewide student surveys, shows that in Burlington, participation by 8th graders is trending upwards and is higher than the state average. Participation by high school seniors, however, is trending downward and is lower than the state average.

Students Participating in Youth Programs
Source: 2006 AHS Community Profiles



Public Facilities and Infrastructure

A description of the city's infrastructure and its municipally-owned public facilities is available in the city's 2006 Municipal Development Plan, including the capacity and limitations of the water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste systems. The Mayor has created a Stormwater Task Force whose charge is to create a comprehensive stormwater plan for the City of Burlington that encompasses both construction and post-construction stormwater issues.

The city's 2006 Municipal Development Plan also describes the city's park system and its priority needs. Restoration and rehabilitation projects are given priority over new construction whenever possible. Park improvement projects have traditionally been a way in which residents have come together to seek funding through the CDBG program.

Indoor recreational facilities are the most pressing unmet facility need. The reuse of the Moran Plant, on the waterfront, and the Gosse Court Armory, in the New North End, may help to address this need.

Urban Reserve

The Urban Reserve was created in 1992 with the city's purchase of waterfront property from Central Vermont Railway. The Urban Reserve, also referred to as the "North 40" is located along the shore of the lake to the north of the former Moran Generating Plant and to the south of Texaco Beach. It is approximately one-half mile long and 600 feet wide with the entire eastern boundary of the property characterized by a steeply vegetated slope rising roughly 100 feet to the residential neighborhood above.

In October 1997, the Planning Commission and City Council adopted a 15-year Interim Use and Stewardship Plan for the Urban Reserve. The plan forbade new development pending long-term planning, but allowed for interim site remediation and public access. The 15-year interim period will expire in 2012. It is possible that during the term of this Consolidated Plan, a new park or other public facility will be established in the Urban Reserve.

Community gardens are an important part of the community fabric, with more community garden plots per capita in the city than in any other community across the country. The city's Municipal Plan identifies securing long-term access to garden space and making new gardens available across the city as important priorities. Also, many of the established gardens are aging and in need of renovation.

In 2000, the city passed a dedicated tax to support the Trees and Greenways program of the Department of Parks & Recreation. With the passage of this tax, tree planting became a much lower priority for the city's CDBG program, unless it occurs as part of a larger project. Parks & Recreation has developed an Urban Forestry Master Plan and

Street Tree Planting Plan. The department's efforts are supported by Branch Out Burlington, a nonprofit which helps to manage a tree nursery at the University of Vermont as a sustained source of low-cost street trees, raises supplemental resources and provides information to residents.

There are 120 miles of public streets in Burlington and 200 miles of sidewalks. In 2000, Burlington voters approved a four-cent increase in the dedicated tax for long-term street paving and sidewalk replacement. This increase represents about half of the funding needed for repair and replacement of the aging infrastructure. The Department of Public Works publishes a five-year and an annual street paving plan as well as an annual sidewalk repair plan. Residents can contact the Department with requests for additions to the lists.

The playgrounds of the city's schools serve as community playgrounds and those located in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods have – as with parks – traditionally been focus points for resident-generated neighborhood improvements projects. Some of the city's youth and childcare centers are aging and may need rehabilitation over the next five years.

Transportation

The city's transportation needs are described in the city's Municipal Plan and in the August 2007 draft Transportation Plan. The goal of the city is to accommodate growth in travel within the existing roadway network and through Transportation Systems Management (TSM), non-auto modes, and Transportation Demand Management (TDM).

Burlington has received around \$9.5 million in funding through the Federal Highway Administration's SAFETEA-LU program (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity, a Legacy for Users) for improvements to the Marketplace District, the side streets around the Marketplace, and to improve access to the waterfront. CDBG may be used as part of the local match for the last two of these improvements.

In addition, the city's Transportation Plan calls for the completion of:

- A Downtown Transit Center, with a federally-funded study underway to choose a location and design a new facility to replace the Cherry Street Transit Center;
- The South End Neighborhood Transit Center to serve CCTA shuttle services, increasing the number of parking spaces from 350 to 575 by replacing surface parking with a parking facility and adding a climate-controlled passenger waiting area;
- The Champlain Parkway (Southern Connector), connecting the western end of I-189 with the Burlington downtown; and
- The addition of a sidewalk along the north side of Flynn Avenue connecting Shelburne Road to Pine Street and extending the existing sidewalk to Oakledge

Park. The Transportation Plan also identifies additional capital projects for planning and/or financing.

The Transportation Plan also addresses traffic calming through new Street Design Guidelines.

Energy Conservation

Annual electricity consumption in Burlington was the same in 2006 as in 1989. The city's municipally-owned electric utility achieved this remarkable result through \$32 million in energy efficiency investments, funded in part by an \$11.3 million bond approved by Burlington voters in 1990, in part by a statewide monthly charge that funds Efficiency Vermont (the first statewide provider of energy efficiency services), and in part by private investment. This investment has saved Burlington consumers over \$7.5 million of retail electric costs annually, a return on investment of \$3.75 saved for each \$1 dollar invested. And, efforts through the Legacy Project have encouraged residents to take personal responsibility for reducing energy consumption.

In 1997, the city passed an ordinance mandating minimum housing energy efficiency standards for existing rental housing (applicable where tenants are directly responsible for heating costs and enforced when buildings are sold), and in 2000, the city adopted updated Guidelines for Energy Efficient Construction. The Burlington Electric Department (BED) provides technical assistance and flexible financing packages to help property owners meet these requirements. For residential new construction, BED promotes the Vermont Energy Star Homes (VESH) standard to developers, architects, builders, building supply centers, equipment suppliers and consumers through a combination of marketing, technical assistance to builders, provision of energy ratings, and a package of incentives for efficient lighting fixtures, major appliances and ventilation equipment. The Weatherization Program, run by the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, offers technical and financial assistance for residential energy efficiency improvements in existing buildings for low-income renters and homeowners.

On the commercial side, the BE3 (Burlington Energy, Environment, and Economy) Project focuses a variety of public and private resources on helping the city's restaurants and convenience stores save money and the environment through informed management practices. Project partners include Burlington Electric Department, Vermont Gas Systems, Chittenden Solid Waste District, Green Technologies, Cassella Waste Management, Interval Compost Project, 10% Challenge, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and others. The BE3 Project hopes to reduce energy consumption, reduce the solid waste stream, increase composting of organics, encourage the production and use of biodiesel fuel from used restaurant grease and fry oil, and encourage the substitution of more environmentally friendly consumable paper products and cleaners. The project is also a vehicle for Renewal Community outreach, informing appropriate businesses of the availability of wage tax credits.

Historic Preservation

The city's Municipal Development Plan includes an Historic Preservation Action Plan. The city supports the innovative use of historic structures. The city actively incorporates historic preservation into its CDBG-funded activities, not only with physical preservation but also by sharing the city's history with residents and visitors through interpretive signage.

